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RAJAH KISNA,

24

A N

K.
INDIAN TALE.

IN THREE VOLUMES. -

VOLUME I.



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— VOLUME I —



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A N G L I C H A L A K

R A J A H K I S N A ,

INDIAN TALE.

C H A P . I.

R AJAH KISNA, son to Waffen-
dew the great, from his stolen
embraces with the woodland goddess
Anhema, ascended the throne of his
ancestors when he had scarcely reach-
ed his twentieth year. He was the
last king of Moteira, and the first of
his high race who found the impo-
tence of earthly grandeur, or experi-
enced its inconstancy.

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B

THIS

2. R A J A H K I S N A,

THIS youthful prince shot up like
the towering palm, and out-stript the
hopes of both his human and celestial
parent; every star smiled on his birth,
and every Brahman called him blessed;
humanity marked him for her own,
courage was his crest, and fortitude
his staff; every royal and every manly
virtue inhabited his breast, and animated
his actions; yet he was doomed to
bear the hard vicissitudes of fortune, to
lose the throne of Moteira, and carry
with him, as wandering exiles, the
lords and people of his native isle.

WHY, ye celestial spirits! oh! why
did ye roll your angry thunders, and
pour out heaven's wrath over this
youthful monarch's head? Inscrutable
are your laws, but wise and just; and
surely

surely to answer some high purpose in your moral government of the universe, the pious Rajah Kisna was destined to search for an unknown kingdom over the trackless paths of the ocean, exposed to rude storms, and ignorant of the course he ought to steer, when by the secret guidance of the celestial nymph Quendra, his shattered vessels reached the shore of Mindano.

A FEW degrees north of the equator rises the fruitful island of Mindano, which though situate in the torrid zone is blessed with a clime serene and temperate, fanned by perpetual breezes, and abounding with the choicest gifts of Mavaly, the god of plenty. It is by nature fortified with a rocky and almost inaccessible shore, overlooked by

B 2 * lofty

R A J A H K I S N A,

lofty mountains and horrid cliffs, which rise perpendicular and forbid all approach; but there are several good harbours where ships of all sizes ride secure from danger, the chief of which is the port of Samarcand.

HERE the much injured and beautiful queen Saraffada, who had been driven from her native land by gigantic barbarity, found her last and best asylum: here she built a city, here laid the foundation of a state e'er long to be the envy of the earth, and which was already risen to a great degree of strength and grandeur, when the fame and sufferings of Rajah Kisna began to be sounded through the world. Happy for Mindano had * Shahara, tremend-

ous

* The Genii, Fame.

ous fiend ! never blowed her thun-
dering trumpet in the streets of Kette-
ris. Ill-fated Saraffada ! what was to
thee the lost Moteira or her wander-
ing monarch, that thou shouldst wish
him on thy coast, that thou shouldst
for ever dwell with fond impatience
on his portrait ? Were thy palaces built,
and all thy stately structures raised but
to be inhabited by the cause of all thy
woe ? Mysterious destiny ! Yet thus it
was that the doctrines of the great
Bramma revealed in the sacred Vie-
dam, and the holy rites of religion dis-
played in the Shaftah, were to be un-
folded to the eastern islands, and every
where to rout the sophistry of the im-
pious * Samaraeths.

B 3

THE

* Indian Heretics.

THE sacred fire which Vishnou during her last transformation had kindled in Moteira remained yet unextinguished, and while this holy flame was kept alive, the gods and guardian genii held a constant intercourse with man. Blest were those days and full of wonders! Then it was that Patagala the guardian goddess of Mindano, and protectress of Saraffada, saw misfortunes ready to overtake her favourite queen. In the starry regions she had heard that a prince whose own dominions were involved in ruin, should shorten Saraffada's days of happiness, and ere long introduce confusion into the peaceful island of Mindano. When therefore she saw the Moteiranians on the seas, with their sails bent towards those fated shores, she exerted all her vengeance.

vengeful powers to distress and annoy them. By calms and storms alternately she strove now to stop their course, and now to beat them back. Her thoughts were never from them, her ardour never slackened; but still she hoped in some propitious hour to find them deserted by their celestial guide Quendra and suffered to fall a prey to her fears and her wrath.

HENCE the various delays and disasters that befel this noble fleet. Hence that war of winds, and conflict of the elements which they so often had to contend with. Hence all their dangers of shipwreck at sea, and of destruction from the inhospitality of barbarians at land.

SCARCELY had the royal wanderer weighed anchor from the promontory of Ormuz, and with his shouting mariners entered into the wide ocean, when thus Patagrala addressed herself to the elephant-headed * Quenevady, and the mighty † Varunna.

“ HEAR me, oh Quenevady ! if thy voracious appetite is yet unsated with human deaths ! Hear me, oh Varunna ! supreme of this watry realm— O lend me your aiding hands to over power the watchful spirits whom Anhema has appointed to guard this fatal race, and to send them far off from Mindano’s devoted realm.— At least, O ye mighty gods ! fore-

bhol to “ flew

*The god of death. † The Indian, Neptune.

“ Slow your anger, let not my favour-
 “ iste island fall to-day, grant her one *
 “ samwatsarum; or one † adi more,
 “ that I may learn the nature of the
 “ impending ills, and guard my royal
 “ charge against their worst effects.
 “ See ! see the Moteiranian flag comes
 “ on, swift are the approaches of this
 “ dreaded fleet ! oh call up your storms,
 “ disperse, over-whelm them. ^{and I}

THE gods heard her prayers, and in part they granted her requests.—

Thick fogs suddenly enveloped the fleet in impenetrable darkness ; the winds then howled horrible, and blowing a perfect hurricane, furiously tossed the distressed ships at random in the

broad

* Three years.

† Eighteen months.

broad waste; the forked lightning's
livid flashes added to the mariners'
terrors the dread of its sulphureous
flames; and the loud thunder stunned
them with its roaring.

TWELVE hours this terrifying storm
continued, and when the wearied winds
ceased their rude havock, thrice three
hours longer the impenetrable fog
blackened the horizon round. Thus
benighted and bewildered the hapless
sailors lost their course, and vainly
lifted up their eyes to behold the sun
or stars, as when the young lambkin
strayed from its fold and lost in some
lonely wood, hears the rustling of the
forest, and with false hope to meet its
dam rushes on, and pants and bleats
in vain.

At

AT length the powerful sun broke through the mist, and enabled the wearied mariners at once to contemplate the havock of the storm, and to avoid the rocks on which in a few moments more, they must have inevitably perished ; for now they had reached the northermost point of Sarassada's territories, a rude, uncultivated country, where no harbour could be found.

THEY coasted the island till they came to the bay of Coukala, where they hoped to cast their anchors, and repair the damages of the storm, but here the shore was covered with a savage race, who far from giving an hospitable

pitable reception to the distressed Moteiranians, annoyed them to the utmost, throwing fire-brands amongst their shattered tackling, and sending volleys of poisoned arrows to destroy the men. Ineffectual were all the signals of distress; and offers of parley from the weather-beaten mariners to move the obdurate hearts of these rough barbarians. They still continued relentless, nor ceased their hostilities while a single ship continued within their reach. Thus were the galled and shattered Moteiranians once more forced to bear off to sea, and seek their present safety in their distance from that shore, which, in obedience to the gods, they had sought so long.

THE

THE parent-goddess, sweet mourning Anhema, beheld this sad scene with horror; and trembling for the fate of her loved offspring, roamed through the woods and glades exclaiming, lamenting and calling to her sister goddes^s the gentle* Adires, and the sportive* Idralias. Her sister goddes^s soon surrounded her, and with them came † Sirihanuman the prince of the beauteous plains of Calajah, the god of shepherds, and king of the woodland host.

THEN thus spake the distressed goddes^s “Of all the nymphs that have been
“in any time transferred into the or-
“der of immortals, or that have blest
“the

* Wood and Water Nymphs.

† The Indian Pan.

“the earth with demi-gods and heroes, I surely am the most unfortunate. My glories are consumed, and even buried in the deep abyss—no altars now blaze with fragrant spices to my name, no Brahman invokes my guardian powers, no pagode is crowded with my votaries—But notwithstanding this dishonour, though Moteira is lost, and the sun of empire set to rise no more, yet should no complaints proceed from the lips of Anhema, were the gods of vengeance here to stop their wrath—when alas! will their sword be sheathed?—Behold my sacred progeny! see the great Rajah Kisna! hunted, harassed through the world by implacable, short-fighted Patala,

" grala, while no period is set to his
" disgraces, nor end appointed for his
" sorrows.

enlist'd to beg do stui'd al "

" THE immortal powers it is true
" have promised him another king-
" dom, and a throne upon which he
" shall be established in peace— The
" almighty Vishnou has sworn it, great
" Bramma has confirmed the oath, and
" yet, oh my royal race! how art
" thou struggling with thy fate?— Lo
" he roams from flood to flood, en-
" counters tempest after tempest; is
" involved in thick clouds of dark-
" ness, and when he emerges from
" these dread evils, is forced upon a
" ruthless shore, where fierce and un-
" tamed savages oppose his landing;
" with

"with showers of arrows, and tor-
rents of fire."

"Is this just, oh god of the plains
"Calajah? Can the divinities of the
"fields and the groves behold it un-
"moved? Shall they who guard the
"humble kind, be totally neglectful
"of the monarch? Shall they who
"weep whole deluges for villages, and
"rural cots, not breathe one sigh for
"falling thrones?"

"Give ear, oh Sirihauman! to my
"request—go to the brutal herd and
"charm them from their purpose—
"go, for with the melting strains of
"harmony, thou canst sooth the soul,
"and mould it to humanity—ah!
"teach

AN INDIAN TALE. 31

" teach the savages to commissera'e
" my offspring, and induce them to
" let him pass by their abodes to the
" court of Saraffada."

SHE ceased, then thus the pastoral
" god replied—" Suppress thy tears
" bright mourner. Thy boon is gr- u-
" ted. The rage of these barbaria is .
" shall be appeased. Know also f r
" thy consolation that the days dra
" nigh in which thy wishes shall be
" fulfilled. Rajah Kisna even now
" approaches to the promised king-
" dom, and the virtuous bride.

" WEEP not, charming Anheima !
" for thy glorious boy, blame not the
" stars that presided at his natal hour;

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“ they smiled propitious, for yet thy
 “ son shall leave the proudest and the
 “ greatest far behind him, and tow-
 “ ering over all his species, raise a
 “ name beyond the name of earthly
 “ kings, and ever live endeared to
 “ virtue and to heaven.”

“ Go thou to thy own groves and
 “ pagode on the golden mount Mal-
 “ divia. There guard the flocks and
 “ shepherd swain. There watch the
 “ turfy mansions, over look the thou-
 “ sand isles that rise from thy once
 “ proud Moteira, and teach the rem-
 “ nant race of that lost people the use-
 “ ful arts of pasturage and agriculture,
 “ to honor the great Visthou, and to
 “ pay their pious adorations to crea-
 “ veri.”

“ ting

"ting Bramma. Be this thy pleasing
"care, the rest belongs to me."

HE spoke, and soaring into air took his way to the port of Coukala, where the savage barbarians mounted the craggy rocks, and clambered up the lofty hills, watchful to destroy the fleet of Rajah Kisna. The sylvan god seated himself conspicuous to view on the green turf of the highest mountains. Here he produced his oaten reed, and filling every pipe with his immortal breath, played so mellifluously thereon, that the flocks left grazing, and the hunted deer stayed its flight to listen. So sweetly harmonious were the strains, that first the savage race stood all astonished, then threw down their

hostile weapons, and flocked around him from the farthest hills, and the most distant rocks. The god arose, and imperceptibly retreating from the coast, piped on, while the rude throng seduced by the enchanting sounds forgot the fleet, and followed close, till Siri hanuman sounding the master reed with strains inspiring clemency and social goodness, the gentle idralia Ohana, accompanied the instrument with songs of benevolence on truth and order, and on the world's being framed by love.

THUS the divinity allured them from the shore, nor ceased his harmony till he brought them far into the woods, and the twilight shade was deepened into darkness.

RAJAH

RAJAH KISNA, having made many unsuccessful attempts to parly with the brutal foe, and being convinced his shattered fleet was in no order to coast the island without repair, had just resolved to force his way to land, when the sudden disappearance of the enemy delivered him from the hard necessity of fighting against the subjects of his friend.

HE made the shore, and debarked with the chosen band of chiefs, and soldiers, whom he appointed to attend him over land to Ketteris, the capital of the island, while his fleet sailed round to the southern province of Mindano.

SARASSADA mean-time was in hourly expectations of the king's arrival;

a merchant who often traversed those seas, had currently reported "that the king of Moteira quitted the port of Ormuz with firm design to visit Mindano." This intelligence soon reached the ears of Saraffada, she therefore sent out vessels continually to meet the monarch with good pilots, and often herself ascended the tower of Samarcand in the hope that she should espy his silken streamers.

CHARMED with his fame and high descent, she set no bounds to her impatience, nor could for a moment keep her eyes from his picture, for she had his picture drawn by the divine pencil of* Devaindra, and conveyed to her

* The Indian Apollo.

by the woodland goodess. His princely form, and the graceful proportion of his lineaments, were so finely expressed in this limning that life itself but little exceeded it. The queen incessantly gazed upon it, and the more she gazed the more admired. Her transports grew upon every look, till she kissed the glowing canvas, and almost thought it spoke; then she besought the gods for his quick arrival, and gazed again, and wept through joy and impatience.

Thus is it too frequently with undiscerning mortals, hurried on by the prevalence of their passions to catch at apparent present good, they repine at events which are the foundation of

their happiness, and rejoice over the hidden mines prepared for their destruction. If reason had prophetic eyes, how often would men by turns sing * pandurgas for the most distressful circumstances, and go about mourning and dejected for the most prosperous.

HADST thou, fair Saraffada! hadst thou but known the evils that awaited thee, couldst thou have extended thy view but one adi further; how wouldest thou have flown from the flattering felicities which thy fond imagination promised thee!

AKROER the queen's messenger being sent into the northern province with

* Songs of joy to the gods.

with dispatches to Kowlang, governor of that district, heard that Rajah Kisna was landed at Coukala, and on his march for the capital. He knew not the rout of the royal wanderer, but well acquainted with his queen's impatience, hastened on the wings of diligence to carry the tidings he had obtained to Ketteris. The queen received this intelligence with rapture, and instantly dispatched orders through her realms to treat the royal stranger with hospitality, while at the same time the most skilful pilots were sent out to navigate his fleet, and bring it round to the capacious harbour of Samarcand.

SHE then quitted the castle of Samarcand, and advanced with her court

to

to the royal residence at Ketteris, to think of every means to captivate his affections, and engage his stay. Now studious to adorn the palace, and now herself, she summoned riches, taste, and magnificence to her aid. Every art was tried to make her own fair and delicate form more lovely, and to add to the graces with which nature had endowed her. Ah! what need of art where were such numerous charms, so few defects! Majestic was her air and motion! Wisdom and love shone in her expressive eye! Her coral lips dimpled with benignant smiles her blooming cheeks, and her breath was more fragrant than the zephyrs of Calajah—Yet all beauteous as she was, she durst not trust to her native charms for the conquest of her hero—

she tried all attires, exhausted invention for modes, sacrificed in the pagode of * Chueran, and turning giddy, called to the rainbow for its colours, and to the spring to shed its fragrance on her.

WHILE Saraffada was thus expecting and preparing, the king with his Moteiranians advanced rapidly in his journey, he passed over the lofty mountains of Cranganor, forded broad rivers, nor was stayed by the deep morasses of Lopatan. Quendra, celestial maid! was ever with him, she was appointed for his safe-guard by the parent-goddes, and well performed her charge. She led him on, and watched his steps, invisible to mortal eye.

* The Indian Venus.

eye. She found the shade to screen him from the mid-day sun, the wholesome breeze to fan his heated blood, the food that nourished him, and the cooling stream that slaked his thirst.

UNDER this sacred guidance Rajah Kisna pursued his way unhurt, and unmolested, and after six days hasty marching, arrived at the great metropolis. Akroer received him without the suburbs of Ketteris, and having appointed the soldiers to encamp on the plain, conducted the king with his nobles to the gates of the palace; here a royal deputation met him with warm congratulations on his arrival from the queen, they then advanced to the grand portico, a vast and proud projection,

jection, upheld by brazen pillars, and bearing on its lofty top a colossan image of Saraffado in parian marble. In full view of this grand entrance, seated on a throne of gold and ivory, was she herself—the living yielding marble—anxiously she waited to behold the lord of her wishes—he came, and slowly proceeding to the steps of the throne with an air of conscious dignity, bowed to the lovely queen, while she with grace inimitable waved her golden sceptre, and bade him ascend—he cheerfully obeyed, and thus address'd the royal fair—

“BEHOLD, fair princess! a wandering monarch, once the sovereign of renowned Moteira, now but a royal rover,

“rover, a king in name. Long has
“the sacred fire burnt with undimis-
“nished blaze under the protection of
“my famed ancestors. By sage Lo-
“caster’s zeal preserved from the ruin
“of my country, the holy flame is still
“alive on board my tempest beaten
“fleet—To secure this from all far-
“ther danger of extinction, the gods
“have directed me to leave it in
“the valley of Cranganor—This oh
“queen! brings me to your realm,
“and this I make my first request.

“PRESENT protection for this small,
“but princely remnant of my people
“is what I next must crave—You oh
“queen! have drank of the bitter cup
“of adversity, and know the distress
“of

“ of searching for a country—Blest be
“ the great powers that have brought
“ you to a fairer milder clime than
“ that of sultry Borneo ! You behold
“ again your splendid pagodes, ano-
“ ther Borneo built by your own
“ hands, and a happy people growing
“ under your nurture—Oh ! inexorable
“ gods of vengeance, when shall Ra-
“ jah Kisna be thus blest ?

“ PERMIT me, gentle princess ! to
“ drop my anchors at Samarcand, and
“ encamp my troops on the plains of
“ Ketteris, till by a thorough repair,
“ my shatter'd fleet shall be fit to try
“ the surge again, and I once more be
“ able to search for that happy coast
“ where fate has fixed my future
“ throne.”

THE

The king here ceased, and bowed again; then thus the charming queen of Mindano—“ Your requests, oh king! are granted. Your name, your birth, and envied troubles have already reached our ears—Who has not heard of the son of Anhema?—“ Why then bow the head as a suppliant to Saraffada?—Behold these fanes and gilded domes that glitter to receive you! Behold the fields, and spreading palms that bloom at your approach, and account them yours! Give rest to your wearied Moteiranians, here fix your standard, nor ever renew your search for flying worlds—This is the kingdom your gods have promised you, here live

"live, and reign, and share the throne
"with me."

SHE paused; surprize and gratitude locked up the monarch's tongue, but the workings of his feeling mind, was strongly pictured in his expressive countenance—The queen penetrated his sensations, and to prevent reply, suddenly arose from her seat. She leaned on the arm of Rajah Kisna as she descended from the throne, and thus passing through many rooms in which the embellishments of gold and jewels displayed the magnificence of her taste, they came into the great hall of state in which a royal banquet was provided.

THE Moteiranian nobles, led on by the courtiers of Ketteris, joyfully followed their sovereign, admiring as they went the sumptuousness and grandeur of all they saw, and especially of the grand salon, which was hung with the richest tapestry of the east, wherein the story of the queen was wove in a manner so masterly that every figure seemed almost to breathe and speak.

THERE stood the lovely mourner with dishevelled tresses, and distracted attitude, lamenting the fall of her royal father, Ramoran, while the Ceylonian tyrant laid waste the territories of Borneo—In the next pannel, oppressed, struggling, and almost overpowered,

powered, she seizes the tyrant's dagger from his girdle, stabs him, and flies—Then on the desert coast lamenting her hard fate, and ready to rush headlong into the briny wave, the goddess Patagrala descends to her aid, brings her faithful nobles around her, strips the province of its inhabitants to attend her, sends the fiend Shahara with false reports to beguile the giant, and assisted by a numerous host of dependent genii, brings round the fleet, laden with all her father's treasures, in which she escaped from the exasperated Rawan—And lastly, see the queen landing in the harbour of Samarcand, laying the foundations of Ketteris, and establishing her people in the realms of Mindano, with

the assistance of the Malaccan-monarch, against all the opposition of the savage natives.

THE Moteiranian nobles with admiration viewed the curious tale thus expressively wrought in the silken tapestry, till observing the queen was seated with Rajah Kisna on her right hand, they took their places promiscuously and the feast began. Now the princes of Moteira regaled on the choicest viands of Mindano, and quaffed the nectar of its palms from vessels of massy gold, thick stuck with gems, and rough with rising figures of old Borneon workmanship, whereon was chased the actions of the gods and heroes, Saraffada's glories, and long lineage,

neage, and the annals of the Ganges,
and the Siemena, sacred rivers !

THEY eat, they drank large draughts,
they emptied over and over, and filled
again the golden goblet. At length
ceasing the banquet, the sages of Min-
dano took up the converse, striving
each in their turns who most should
please, and most engage the stranger
guests—One told of eclipses, and the
periods and flight of comets; one spake
of rivers and their origin; and another
of the tides and refluxes of the sea, of
the cause of earthquakes, storms, and
thunders, and of the generative pow-
ers of the earth. Then the venerable
Moteiranian Brahman, Naretti opened
his sacred lips. He spake of the ori-

gin of the worlds, of the præ-existent state of souls, of their progressive transmigrations, and future restoration. Then he discoursed upon the works of the great Bramma, the birth and metamorphosis of Vistnou, the wondrous deeds of Ixora, and the nature and offices of the guardian deities, and their dependent Genii. Next he described the services of the pagode, instructed the Mindanoans in the doctrines of the Viedam, and established the truths of the Shaftah. Conviction flowed from the hoary sage's tongue and entered into every heart. The queen declared her pagodes should be sanctified by the Brahmanic worship according to the directions of the holy books. She then asked for copies of

the

the * Viedam and the * Shastah, and craved the wise Sedamma to instruct her people.

Thus Saraffada fondly strove to lengthen the fleeting hours, nor ceased here, but still on various topics prolonged discourse. She spoke of the morn and twilight, on the labour and polity of bees, of gardening and agriculture, of the art of government, and of the moral virtues. Her thoughts were enlarged, and her expression elegant. Every hearer hung with rapture on the enchanting music of her voice, and wished her to continue the only speaker, when she, impatient to know the story of the wandering

D 4 king,

* The Indian Scriptures.

king, sweetly smiling asked him, to relate the amazing adventures of his checquered life, and favour her with the tale of all his travels, and all his woes, till he landed on the hospitable shores of Mindano.

HERE she ceased, all now was silent expectation, when the pensive monarch thus begun.

C H A P. II.

“ YOU ask me, fair princess! to
“ open afresh my still bleeding
“ wounds, and to awake the griefs
“ which could they be forgotten I
“ would fain forget—you ask me how
“ Moteira with all its majesty was at
“ once obliterated from the face of na-
“ ture, and that mighty empire in one
“ short moment destroyed which had
“ been ages in establishing.—Your
“ curiosity

“ curiosity is just—the day disappears,
“ the moon lights up her sleepy taper,
“ and hushed nature seems to summons
“ wearied man to rest, yet will I tell
“ my chearless story.

“ ON my accession to the throne of
“ my ancestors, when I had paid due
“ honours to the memory of my royal
“ father, my first care was to celebrate
“ the marriage that had been agreed
“ upon between me and the daughter
“ of Anselmo, king of Madagascar.
“ Determined myself to see the prin-
“ ceps, and judge of those beauties
“ which had been so greatly extolled
“ in my ears, before the golden cestus
“ of Peramsceri was buckled round us,
“ I ordered a royal fleet to be prepa-
“ red for this voyage.

“ My

“ My officers, and mariners were
“ busily employed on this occasion,
“ and through their industrious vigi-
“ lance had almost compleated the
“ work, when such shocking tidings
“ reached my dominions, as drove all
“ the tender sensations of love from my
“ breast, and turned all my boiling
“ thoughts upon war and great re-
“ venge.

“ GAJASTRIS, the daughter of the
“ great Waffendew by his virtuous
“ queen Parvati, to perform a pious
“ vow, went with a splendid but weak
“ retinue, on a pilgrimage to the fa-
“ mous pagode of mount Adamio in
“ Ceylon, where Rawan’s brother, the
“ giant Coukering, reigned. The ty-
“ rant

“ rant was informed by some base mi-
“ nister of his pleasure of the beauty of
“ my sister, and of the ease with which
“ she might be detained in Ceylon.
“ Upon this intelligence the monster
“ sent round a strong ship, well armed,
“ to watch the port of Adamio, and
“ seize the royal virgin in her little
“ bark as soon as the sacred convoy
“ left her. The ruthless slaves too
“ well obeyed their lord, and after a
“ short conflict, in which my brave
“ subjects did all that men oppressed
“ by vast superior force could do, the
“ princess was taken, and carried to
“ the barbarians palace.

“ COUKERING could not behold
“ her matchless charms with indif-
“ ference

“ ference, he no sooner saw but his
“ lustful appetites were on fire to en-
“ joy her. Her prayers, her tears,
“ and threats of vengeance, were all
“ equally ineffectual. Smiling scorn-
“ fully at the royal virgin’s impree-
“ tions, he ordered her to be conveyed
“ to the inner apartments of the pa-
“ lace, while he dispatched some im-
“ portunate affairs of state, and then
“ he would be with her.

“ As soon as the shades of night
“ obscured the horizon, the brutal
“ tyrant hastened to his prey. With
“ savage tenderness he first urged all
“ that flattery could dictate to obtain
“ a free oblation of her maiden charms;
“ but in vain he offered riches im-

“ mense,

“ menfe, and boundless power to the
“ detesting maid; she scornfully re-
“ jected all his prayers, and though
“ she knew her ruin was unavoidable,
“ yet heroically resolved to support the
“ conscious dignity of inward virtue
“ to her latest hour. The cruel tyrant
“ roused to madness by her firm deni-
“ als, proceeded to the last resource
“ of vicious souls, and aided by his
“ ready slaves, ravished those beauties
“ for which even gods had sighed in
“ vain— Thus was that gay flower
“ blasted, which had blown so sweet-
“ ly, and spread its fragrance beyond
“ the realms of Moteira—thus was
“ that lilly cropt which was to have
“ been transferred to the garden of
“ the king of Visapour!

Slam

“ WHEN

“ WHEN the first intelligence of this
“ inhospitable deed was brought to
“ Moteira, the most passionate fury in-
“ flamed the whole nation that ever
“ burnt in the breasts of loyal people.
“ Every soul breathed dire revenge,
“ and every mouth called upon Vira-
“ paten, the god of war, to unsheathe
“ his bloody sword, and root out his
“ race of gigantic monsters who filled
“ the earth with their crimes.

“ IN the midst of all this rage, Ga-
“ jastris herself returned to her native
“ island. By the assistance of a neg-
“ lected mistress of the monster’s, she
“ escaped from Ceylon, and landing
“ in the port of Comal, soon reached
“ the capital. She walked through
“ the crowded streets, exposing her
“ torne

“ torne bosom, her dishevelled hair,
“ and streaming eyes, still calling out
“ for vengeance as she passed, and
“ with an air of sorrowful distraction
“ animating the people to destroy her
“ oppressor. Entering the palace I
“ met the fair despoiled beauty, who
“ falling at my feet would fain have
“ told her woes, but sinking beneath
“ the pressure of grief fainted in my
“ arms. On her return to life, I said
“ all that fraternal love and reason
“ could suggest to calm the tempest of
“ her soul; I swore to wreak a black
“ revenge upon the tyrant, urged that
“ her pure mind was yet untainted,
“ and hoped by reflections upon her
“ steady virtue, to remove the deli-
“ cate sorrows that oppressed her heart.

“ Atten-

“ Attentively she listened to my words,
“ and for a few days seemed consoled;
“ her understanding returned, and
“ cheerfulness brightened up her coun-
“ tenance; but her tender frame was
“ hurt beyond repair, and the angel
“ of death relieved her from her set-
“ tled grief.

“ My sister's obsequies were cele-
“ brated in all the pomp of silent sor-
“ row, and heartfelt woe, for much
“ I loved the virtuous damsel. Scarce
“ were the funeral ceremonies closed,
“ when a splendid embassy from Couk-
“ ering, dispatched to offer every re-
“ paration in the tyrant's power to my
“ injured sister, demanded passports
“ from Comal to the capital. Ye gods

“ how did this inflame my loyal people ! Rage was turned into madness
“ at the bare sight of the courier, and
“ scarce could I preserve any regard
“ to the rights of kings till the Ceylonian ship had left the coast—Rule
“ and authority were now at an end,
“ the people thought me tame and dilatory in my martial preparations,
“ and in vain I urged that the strength
“ and power of the foe, made a cautious and deliberate conduct necessary.
“ The uproar but increased upon
“ my endeavors to calm it, and grew
“ stronger upon every check, till it
“ became like an inundation that drives
“ all before it, when the bounding
“ Roe is tript up, the stately trees of
“ the forest overthrown, the War-

Horse

“ Horse flouncing in the torrent, and
“ the grim Lion roaring horrible !

“ THERE was no resistance to be
“ made against a spirit of revenge so
“ great, so fierce, so universal—The
“ ships were rigged in the harbour of
“ Comal, the shore was covered with
“ impatient warriors—All that were
“ wise, or good, or brave; all that
“ were great and eminent, came vo-
“ lunteers to the camp, pressing, sue-
“ ing, nay demanding to plunge into
“ this war.

“ To Locaster then I assigned the
“ helm of government, and trusting
“ to his approved abilities, for he was
“ prudent, opulent, uncorrupt, wise

“ and penetrating, I embarked with
“ a noble army on board the finest
“ fleet that ever yet had appeared in
“ the Indian Sea, in the moon Aswy-
“ am, and in the last year of the
“ fourth Ifaja.

“ THE wind was fair and prospe-
“ rous when we left the harbour, and
“ we sailed forth with courageous
“ hearts, and high-raised spirits, not
“ dreaming of changing skies, or tur-
“ bulent tempests; but the skies soon
“ lost their azure brightness, and soon
“ the shifting winds began to threaten
“ our destruction. They blew a hur-
“ ricane which in despite of all our ef-
“ forts forced us far southward of the
“ intended course. Thus were we
“ drove

“drove into unknown seas, where
“such terrifying storms assailed the
“fleet, as deprived the stoutest ma-
“riner of all skill and motion. Waves
“encountered waves, while winds war-
“ring with winds, whistled through
“our shattered rigging, and tore down
“all before them.

“IN a few short hours the whole
“navy was dispersed, and scarce a
“ship of all that noble fleet to be per-
“ceived. The storm continued with
“increasing force, and now my fears
“over-powering all reflection, I gave
“the absent vessels up for lost, some
“perhaps foundered on ragged rocks,
“some wreckt on distant shores, and
“others swallowed up in the foaming
E 3 “brine.

" brine.—Oh! when, fair Sarassada!
 " when will the time come that I for-
 " get the horrors of that hour, or
 " cease to shudder at the remembrance
 " of that storm?

" Lost now to all self-concern, I
 " grew insensible to the terrors that
 " over-whelmed us, and smiling on
 " the verge of destruction, patiently
 " waited for the moment in which my
 " sinking vessel should be ingulphed
 " in the raging deep. But not forget-
 " ting religion in this melancholy hour,
 " and well perceiving that all human
 " aid would be ineffectual to our pre-
 " servation, regard to the remains of
 " my people, induced me to invoke
 " the sea-born goddess Grienga—The
 " goddess

“ goddess was propitious to my pray-
“ er, and rising from her crystal palace,
“ bade the rude storm abate, and an-
“ gry waves subside—The day once
“ more appeared, and the sun break-
“ ing through the fullen clouds shew-
“ ed me all that was left of the vast
“ armada with which I departed from
“ Moteira. My own vessel dismasted,
“ and reeved of all its canvas, together
“ with two other unshrouded ships
“ composed the whole naval force that
“ remained to execute my just revenge
“ on Coukering.

“ SENSIBLE of my weak condition
“ and totally lost in the immeasurable
“ ocean, I feared to fall in with the
“ fleet of my foes, or to be forced

“ upon their coast, and thus become
“ the object of their insulting mockery,
“ more to be dreaded than death itself.
“ In this uncertainty we heavily rolled
“ about in the vast waters two days
“ repairing as well as possible our rig-
“ ging, but quite ignorant which way
“ to shape our course. Then it was
“ that Grienga appearing in the visions
“ of the night to sage Naretti, directed
“ his view to the blue hills of Mada-
“ gascar, and ordered him to steer
“ for the friendly coast of Anselmo.
“ The glad Brahman related his dream
“ in the morning, and from the deck
“ pointed to the mariners the wished-
“ for haven. With loud shoutings
“ they proclaimed their joy, and striv-
“ ing who should exceed in strength
“ with

AN INDIAN TALE. 63

" with willing hands they plied the

" oars, and by their toil to know where and "

" whether sailors to broad land.

" WHILE madding joy thus swelled

" my people's hearts, I pensively con-

" templated my ruined fortune, and

" hanging down my head, thus medi-

" tated on my future fate.

" Ah ! will Anselmo now see me,

" or suffer me to espouse his lovely

" daughter ?—Nay, will the princess

" herself deign to listen to my offered

" vows, when I have only a depopu-

" lated island to convey her to, from

" henceforth exposed to all the ravages

" of surrounding barbarians, without

" the power to revenge it's wrongs, or

" even repel their forces.

" YET

38 RAJAH KISNA,

“ YET surely a king cannot fall from
“ his royal word, or lightly break the
“ sacred bond of treaties ratified be-
“ fore the gods ! But the island ap-
“ pears ; at least Anselmo will permit
“ us to refit our ships, and recruit our
“ exhausted strength, that we may re-
“ turn to Moteira.”

“ AFTER long plying, we made the
“ harbour of Madagascar, and cast our
“ anchors. I landed with a few at-
“ tendants, and pitching the royal
“ tent at a small distance from the
“ shore, dispatched messengers to ac-
“ quaint Anselmo of my arrival—The
“ old king rejoicing at these tidings,
“ and ignorant of my wretched for-
“ tune, gave orders to prepare for my
“ recep-

“ reception in his capital; and believ-
“ ing he should behold some grand
“ proof of my strength and power, in
“ that great armada so late the terror
“ of the asiatic isles, he set off himself,
“ with all his court in all its pomp, to
“ meet me in my camp. The fair An-
“ geleia was with him magnificently
“ attended. Conspicuously exalted on
“ an ebon car she came; her robes
“ were sky-coloured silk, embellished
“ with diamond stars, her chefnut tres-
“ ses were bound up in a tiara termi-
“ nating in a crescent, all richly shin-
“ ing with the same bright jewels; on
“ her cheek bloomed the rose of Ca-
“ lajah, and the lilies of the valley of
“ Perivat were not so fair as her neck;
“ majesty dignified her air, and sweet-
“ ness

60 RAJAH KISNA,

"ness dimpled her cheeks; in fine,
"the beauties of her person were only
"to be exceeded by Saraswada's.

"A SIGHT so enchanting for a mo-
"ment obliterated my sorrows, made
"me almost forget the tears of the
"Moteiranian widows, and almost
"drowned the remembrance of the
"loss of more than half my people—
"but one look on the devouring waves
"checkt my rising joy, and instantly
"recalled each sad idea to my mind—
"I stood penfive and immoyeable,
"when Anselmo eagerly advancing,
"embraced me with the enraptured
"warmth of friendship.

"Ah Rajah Kisna! he cryed, my
"dearest son, how shall I gratulate
"myself,

AN INDIAN TALE. 6

“ myself, or how my realms on this
“ blest interview! See here thy bloom-
“ ing bride, behold my child whom
“ thou alone art worthy to possess—
“ To-morrow I lead her to the sacred
“ grove, and make her thine—Mean
“ time let us view your fleet.”

“ My fleet, replied I with a heavy
“ groan and pointing to the bay, there
“ it is—O king! there is all that now
“ is left of my armada, a poor, a
“ wretched remnant of my naval pow-
“ er. The rest are driven far off, dis-
“ persed, wreckt, destroyed by merci-
“ less storms, and swallowed up by
“ the ever-voracious deep.”

“ Is this all, he answered quick, are
“ these the boasted flags of Sea-girt
“ Mo-

“ Moteira?—is this the strength so
“ loudly talked of?—ye gods, how
“ shall these protect my daughter from
“ the roaming pyrate, or save her from
“ barbarian force?”

“ HE spoke, and while the cruel ac-
“ cents yet dwelt upon his tongue, his
“ visage sickened, his arms dropped,
“ and his rolling eyes lowered discon-
“ tent and disdain from beneath his
“ cloud-contracted brow. The fair
“ Angeleia too drooped her head, the
“ roses languished on her cheeks, the
“ smiles deserted her lips, and a chil-
“ ling coldness spread itself over all her
“ frame. So looks the orange grove
“ when the voracious locust has nipt
“ its tender buds, despoiled it of its
“ bur-

“ burnished honours, and robbed it of
“ its leafy cloathing.”

“ THOUGH I could presage no good
“ from this sudden change, I kept up
“ the appearance of courage, and in-
“ vited the royal guests to my tent—
“ I gallantly offered the princess my
“ hand on entering, which she receiv-
“ ed with a reluctant air, and eyes a-
“ verse—A slight repast of sherbet and
“ fruit was spread on a side table, and
“ the royal visitors being seated, I was
“ going myself with an air of gaiety to
“ hand the fruit to Angeleia, when
“ loud shouts from the bay seemed to
“ proclaim some joyful tidings near—
“ reiterated acclamations, louder, and
“ still louder followed close, and filled

“ us

"us with amazement—we started from
"our places to know the cause, and
"scarce had left the tent, when a
"breathless messenger cried "the
"fleet! the fleet!" another, succeed-
"ed by others still, came running
"on with the same tokens of bursting
"joy, and now the bay appearing, we
"saw it all—there was my navy, the
"whole Moteiranian navy, safe, un-
"damaged, and covering all the seas
"again! it is no longer now true "
saw I before cried another isvor eku "
"P R E S E R V E D oh princess! by
"Grienga's providential care, we saw
"my glorious armada in all its splen-
"dour, with its tall masts, and silken
"streamers, casting anchor on the
"coast of Madagascar, and heard the
"shout-

AN INDIAN TALE. 8

" shouting sailors rend the air with
" their loud acclamations.
" At this noble sight, the king and
" princess instantly cleared their cloud-
" ed brows—the placid smile of friend-
" ship sat on either face, and joy danc-
" ed in their sparkling eyes—He look-
" ed again all royalty and grandeur,
" she was all love and sweetness, like
" that fair flower which at the ap-
" proach of darkness shrinks and folds
" up its leaves, but when the sun
" breaks forth with cloudless majesty,
" and the day re-brightens, again ex-
" pands its glories, exhales its fra-
" grance, and charms anew each won-
" dering beholder.

® SRI AJAHAKISNA:

“ A CHANGE of fortune so unhoped
“ for might well suffice to swell my
“ breast with joy, but all this was lost
“ in the more exalted feelings of a
“ king.—To behold my loved people
“ safe, to have my strength and power
“ restored to me again—It was this
“ great event, this wonderous act of
“ divine benignity, and only this, that
“ could inspire such boundless rapture
“ in my soul—My subjects crowded to
“ the shore, and my chieftans eagerly
“ advanced to pay their duty to their
“ king. I ran, I even wept, and with
“ open arms received them to my
“ heart, thanking the great Vishnou for
“ their deliverance, blessing Grienga,
“ and praising all the heavenly host.
“ For a time it was a scene of mad-
“ ness, and wild uproar; but the force

of

“ of reason gradually prevailing; a
“ calm succeeded to this violence of
“ joy.

“ Anselmo seized this opportunity
“ to propose our repairing to his pa-
“ lace. We accepted the offer, and
“ attended by a noble train, I accom-
“ panied the monarch and his lovely
“ daughter to the capital. On our ar-
“ rival, oblations were immediately of-
“ fered to the gods in every sacred
“ grove, and upon every holy moun-
“ tain, near the city; for yet they had
“ no pagodes, nor knew the ritual of
“ the Shaftah in Madagascar. My
“ next care was to propagate the truths
“ of the great Bramma, and to esta-
“ blish the worship of all the divinities

“ of the seven worlds, in strict conformity to the Viedam and the Shaftah.

“ Then my nuptials with the lovely
 “ Angeleia engrossed my thoughts, and
 “ the pagode of * Peramsceri being fi-
 “ nished, the sage Naretti lighted up
 “ the holy torch, and bound us in the
 “ sacred girdle, while I invoked the
 “ parent-goddes\$ to descend from the
 “ golden mount Maldivia to bless the
 “ union; but she heard not the pious
 “ invocation.

“ TEN days successively, the streets
 “ of Madascar were crowded with the
 “ sons of joy, and the busines\$ of em-
 “ pire given up to the pleasures of se-
 “ tivity. As I knew the winds were
 “ wrong

* The Indian, Juno.

" wrong set for my passage home; I
" cheerfully partook of this enervating
" mirth, but when I heard it would be
" near three moons longer before I
" could quit the harbour, the llinger-
" ing hours in spite of love rolled on
" heavily. My wishes were all cen-
" tered in the execution of that great
" revenge for which at first I left the
" Moteiranian pastures. But at length
" the rainy season closed, the winds
" shifted, and spring resumed her em-
" pire, glowing in all her mild ethereal
" softness, and like thee, inspiring love
" and joy.

" OUR ships were ready, and taking
" a tender leave of the old king, my
" lovely bride cheerfully resign'd her

native isle, and all the dear connec-
 tions of her youth, to accompany me
 to foreign climes, and form her man-
 ners to the customs of an unknown
 kingdom. We embarked in a lucky
 hour, and hoisting all our sails, quit-
 ted the harbour when the winds bid
 fair to waft us happily on our way.
 Fragrant breezes, and gently rolling
 seas bore us swiftly on by day, by
 night celestial Quendra was our con-
 voy to light us on the watry path,
 and from all accidents to preserve
 us. At length we safely made the
 port Comal, where I landed with
 the queen, and conducting her to
 the capital consigned her to the care
 of Locaster, to whom I gave some
 necessaries.

“ necessary instructions; and without
“ loss of time hastened back to the fleet.”

“ ONCE more we set sail for the
“ realms of the ravisher, big with the
“ thoughts of high revenge; but here
“ again disappointment lowered on our
“ schemes, and every hour was charg-
“ ed with fresh disasters.”

“ THE gods most surely opposed our
“ enterprize, and gently to convince
“ me of their disapprobation, suspend-
“ ed the general laws of nature on
“ the seas we traversed, and gave new
“ directions to the winds and waves.
“ Scarcely had we lost sight of the
“ towering spires of Comal, when
“ the whole fleet was stopt by a calm

“ so dead that not one curling wave
“ appeared to rise upon the surface of
“ the ocean; to this succeeded winds
“ that blew with equal force from
“ every quarter of the world, so that
“ it was alike impossible to advance
“ or retreat, shut in like iron between
“ loadstones, yet tossed about like the
“ driven sands of the desert.

“ Thus we continued long, the
“ north and south now blowing to-
“ gether, now the east and west, and
“ then the four at once. Thus did
“ the sportive genii, or malicious dæ-
“ mons hold the fleet in play, till
“ Quendra, pitying my distress, ex-
“ erced the powers given her by Gri-
“ enga for a time to bid the winds be
“ still

“ still. A dead calm then returned,
“ and I called upon the mariners to
“ seize their oars and alertly work us
“ from these floods of inquietude. The
“ sailors gladly obeyed, and soon
“ brought us to an open sea.

“ HERE no accident opposed our
“ way, but tedious still and lingering
“ was the passage; no winds arose
“ with force to waft us on, and the
“ fleet worked heavily through a rol-
“ ling sea. At length the capes of
“ Ceylon appeared in view, and we
“ could distinguish the sacred mount
“ Adamio. This sight revived the idea
“ of my sister’s wrongs, and my heart
“ exulted in its determined vengeance,
“ growing lighter and lighter as we
“ advanced.

" advanced. The fleet too as we approach
" proached nearer to the coast, grew
" swifter in its progress, and closing
" its dead motion, seemed even to fly
" over the surface of the waves, as if
" attracted by some majestic force
" from two marble towers, which
" standing far out in the sea seemed to
" have been erected to defend the
" entrance of the harbour from the
" approach of an enemy.

" We flew on with increasing speed,
" and now one minute, one gliding
" minute had dashed us on all those
" enchanted rocks, had not the sea,
" born Grienga in that very instant
" arose from the azure deep to aid the
" wearied mariner. In her coral cha-
" berries
" riot,

chariot, drawn by the unicorns of the
 " main, and surrounded by her nymphs,
 " she came and rushed between us
 and the ingulphing Haven. With
 her forked trident she pushed back
 flying vessels, the nymphs and tri-
 tons, following her example, toiled
 incessantly till the fleet was driven
 out to sea again, secure from the
 dire power of these magic rocks.

" THEN—" "Hail, I cried, all hail
 " the bright deity! fountain of good
 " to man, source of power, wealth,
 " and fame to the adventurous sailor,
 " say wherefore this celestial visit, and
 " whence these gracious offices, let
 " us know the extent of our danger,

" that

CHAL.

"that our grateful piety may be duly
warned." —
"Haste thee hence, replied the
goddess of the surge, those marble
towers you seem to see are nature's
cheat. They are far distant from
the land, and are not towers, but
rocks placed there for thy destruction
by the daemon Raxaxos protector
of Ceylon's tyrant. Much farther
eastward is the real port of Adamio.
Proceed and prosper."

"Thus spoke the goddess, and descended to her crystal palace with all her watry train.

C H A P. III.

"**F**Ollowing the directions
of the goddes, we chearfully
bore away for the port of Adamio,
and being blessed with prosperous gales,
in a short time caught sight of that
cloud-topt pagode. Here a vessel came
off to meet me bearing a courier from
the silver-headed Brahman Kirnako.
I ordered the messenger on board my
ship, who being accordingly brought

into

70 RAJAH KISNA

into my presence thus delivered the message of his master—

“ THY revenge, great king! is now
“ compleated, and thy enemy fallen.
“ Mostik hath risen up against Couk-
“ ering, slain the tyrant, and assumed
“ the throne. Would that the rest
“ might be concealed from thee! but
“ thus the hoary Brahman bade me
“ say—thy own dominions, oh Rajah
“ Kisna! demand thy presence now,
“ too long hast thou been absent from
“ vanished Moteira, and on thy re-
“ turn mayst sail over the cities thou
“ hast ruled.”

“ THE courier ceasing, returned to the holy mount, and left me ponder-

ing on his words. After long musing I thus exclaimed—“ Oh righteous Ixo-
 “ ra ! is then the gigantic tyrant pu-
 “ nished without my intervention ?
 “ Thy aid I sought not when I left my
 “ native shore, and justly hast thou
 “ robbed me of my great revenge —
 “ O ye ethereal rulers, eternally just,
 “ whither shall the oppressor flee, or
 “ where the tyrant hide himself ?
 “ What is man that he should act
 “ counter to your heavenly wills, or
 “ assume powers which you give not ?
 “ But ah ! what means the Brahman’s
 “ dark omened sentence against Me-
 “ teira ?” ~~Das aschir yu Bonvnoo~~
 —modi bhoibba cult buu godugor

“ HAVING no farther business at
 the port of Adamio, I determined to
 bear

R A J A H K I S N A,

bear away for the promontory of Seos, where there is an ancient pagode erected to Varunna, at whose holy altar the sage Brahman Alfrimon presided. This hoary priest was of Moteiranian origin, and being frequently favoured with the inspirations of his god, I hoped more particularly to learn the fate of my country, and to be directed by him in my future conduct.

" Before I gave orders, however, to pass the holy mountain by which it had been proposed to penetrate into the heart of the enemies country, I convened my princes and chieftans together, and thus addressed them—

" GALLANT Moteiranians! my loved
and loyal subjects, is it not time to
“ recollect

“ recollect ourselves? The gods ap-
“ prove not of our purpose, or else
“ why so many warnings to forsake it—
“ The heavens, the earth, the war-
“ ring elements are all against us, we
“ fight against universal nature, and
“ but for the miraculous interventions
“ of our guardian deities, must long
“ since have perished in our vain at-
“ tempt.

“ SHALL we then still proceed in
“ defiance of great Bramma, still war
“ against omnipotence—Far be such
“ daring thoughts removed from me,
“ and far from you—When men once
“ leave the tracts of providence and
“ oppose the laws of heaven, rebuffs
“ and plagues shall follow them, and

“ all nature cconspire together for
“ their ruin. Fool that I was not to
“ see this sooner, and consult the
“ avenger ere I assumed his powers !
“ The voice of the people is not inva-
“ riably the voice of heaven. The
“ patriot king must be ruled by his
“ own reason, and the councils of the
“ wiser few if he would act a noble
“ and consistent part--But Coukering
“ is already fallen, Ixora has taken the
“ sword of vengence from my pre-
“ sumptuous hands, and given it to
“ his faithful votary Mostik. This I
“ clearly learn from Kirnako’s courier,
“ but darkness rests upon the fate of
“ Moteira, nor can I penetrate the
“ mystic sentence. Let us then hasten
“ to the pagode of Varunna, and from
Ms. “ “ holy

“ holy Alfrimon receive our doom.
“ His friendly hand shall support if
“ misfortunes oppress us, and his sage
“ advice direct our future conduct.”

“ Thus saying we bent our sails for
Seos, and in two days cast our anchors
on the sacred shore. I then with an
appointed train of princes and chieftans
landed, and advanced in solemn pro-
cession to the holy fane. The pious
Alfrimon met me at the entrance of
the grove, attended by the chief of his
hoary tribe of Brahmins, and conduced
me rejoicing to the pagode. We
passed the grassy area shaded by tall
cedars, in which the sacred dances
were performed, and in the spacious
portico observed the voted vestments

of shipwreckt mariners hung thick around, together with their swords and lances, and the gilded planks on which they swam to shore. Farther on was boldly painted the trident god, with Grienga on his right hand, and the winds and storms upon his left. His coral car was surrounded by sportive nymphs and playful tritons, and here the mermaids, starting from the canvas, seemed to chant their sweetest lays, while whales, dolphins, and all the inhabitants of the deep were dancing round.

FARTHER still, through an ancient gallery of awful length, impervious to the solar ray, we penetrated to the center of the sacred pagode, where

in a full blaze of light was Vartunna's venerable shrine, his coral altar, and golden tripod. Hither we came, and falling prostrate before the ruler of the seas, while Alfrimon lighted up the sacred fire, thus addressed the god.

"Oh great sovereign of the waves!
"who hast hitherto preserved us a-
"midst boisterous storms, and forbid
"the unruly surge to overwhelm us,
"accept our prayers and praises—Let
"the offerings we make unto thee,
"come up before thee, be our pro-
"tector still, and give us, we beseech
"thee, to know the doom that awaits
"us."

"HAVING thus prayed, I arose and strewed upon the altar an oblation of

rich gums and spices, the offering of a grateful heart. The holy Brahman mean-while stood veiled at the foot of the shrine, in secret adoration of the divinity. The god was propitious, and Alfrimon throwing off his veil, I saw the ray divine gradually encircle his hoary brow, and new beaming glories spread around him. Now turning to the altar he kneeled and blessed us, then rising he looked upon me with an aspect of angelic pity, and in a voice heavenly calm he spake—

“ SAD is this tale, oh king! I have
 “ to tell thee yet be not faint of heart,
 “ neither thou nor thy faithful sub-
 “ jects must be dismayed, since that
 “ which is to come shall more than
 “ com-

"compensate for that which is lost,
 "the new Moteira far outshines the
 "Moteira that is gone—Alas! it is
 "gone for ever, a monarchy no more!

"THE gods incensed at the impieties
 "of thy queen, and the sins of thy peo-
 "ple have cut off thy kingdom from the
 "earth—Thy throne is sunk, and that
 "ceptre broken which twenty kings
 "have held in succession—Thy ena-
 "melled fields, thy gorgeous palaces,
 "the sacred pagodes, and thy peopled
 "cities, are all absorbed and vanished—
 "The gods themselves, without the
 "ministry of men have expunged Mo-
 "teira, and annihilated thy country—
 "All is lost in one dreadful all-involv-
 "ing ruin, save only the golden mount

" Maldivia, together with the holy fire
 " in its sacred vale, the lofty pagode
 " of Anhema, and the town so late
 " erected by thy royal father. In this
 " peninsula, an island now, thou shalt
 " find a remnant of thy people.—
 " Haste then prince! unto thy mo-
 " ther's fane, and from her celestial
 " lips receive the word of comfort, the
 " balm that shall bring peace to thy
 " troubled mind—Go—fair winds and
 " prosperous gales attend thee!"
 —
 " THE holy Brahman ceased—Ter-
 rour and amazement tied my tongue,
 grief and confusion deprived me of all
 sense, I fell to the ground, nor could
 my faithful subjects assist their distressed
 king, for all were involved in
 equal

equal woe—Wives, children, relations, friends, arose in black succession, to fill our dark imaginations with the keenest afflictions of humanity, and strike us with the deepest sense of misery in the supposed loss of all the most endearing connections of life—Thus we lay, when gentle thunders suddenly rolled over our heads, the pagode shook, and from the sacred shrine a voice proceeded saying—“ Let fortitude sway the soul of Rajah Kisna—Vishnou herself is his protector.”—A blaze of light here shot through the pagode, sweet hope instantly took possession of my breast, and every pang grew lighter, and every horror subsided—Ah! whence is that spirit, and whose that inward whispering, that firms the human heart, bids us brave the

the frowns of adverse fate, and inspires the most confidential reliance upon the supporting powers of Providence! It was the god, the god himself that roused our torpid souls, and gave the calms we felt.

AGAIN we paid our adorations at the venerable shrine, then bade a long adieu to holy Alfrimon, and returned in solemn silence to the fleet.

"THE mariners heavily proceeded to hoist their sail, and without one shouting token of joy, in melancholy stillness rushed into the main. To Moreira we shaped our course, and having good winds and moderate seas, made our way unchecked by any new disaster. We arrived at the place where

where once Moteira proudly rose, refitting the impetuous waves on every side, but oh! how dreadful was the sight!—A thousand desert isles now peeped their barren heads, where once that fruitful country lay, while we, ye sacred powers! sailed over her vernal hills, her woods of palm and cedar, her thick-thronged towns, and all her lofty piles and palaces!

"We soon distinguished Maldivia from amidst the ruins that shocked us all around, and bearing into port, saw poor Locaster weeping on the shore, surrounded by his family, and a numerous train of matrons, maids, and beardless youths, with many aged men of various ranks and conditions in life

together.

together with a deputation from the holy college of Brahmins, who from time immemorial had kept alive the celestial fire in the sacred valley of Maldivia.

OFTEN in longing expectation of our return these had gathered in multitudes upon the strand, and watched the extensive main if haply they might espy us from afar; but disappointed still, for many days they had neglected their unusual labour, when bold Moncebri, the eldest of Locaster's sons, to obtain the unfledg'd young of a various coloured bird, mounted the highest tower of the pagodes, and while exulting over the certain prize, his young heart danced with a still nobler

joy

joy at the distant prospect of a numerous fleet. The boy was with his father when we sailed from Comal, and had too often witnessed the old man's anxious hope for our return to doubt it was the same. Forgetful of the prize he came to seek, he hastily descended from the tower crying "the fleet!" "the fleet!" This filled the shore, and the peoples own eyes soon confirmed the boys veracity.

"I LANDED near to Locaster, and with tears produced by every passion, embraced him o'er and o'er—" Oh "my gallant friend! I cried, oh good "old man! what a scene of sorrow is "here! where is Moteira, and where "her glories? How didst thou escape "the

“the general calamity? How camest thou surrounded by this goodly company? Where is my queen, my couriers where? Whence came this dire desolation? what brought it on? what god was angry? what providence preserved thee and thy friends?”

“WHILE I was thus proposing a string of questions in a voice scarce articulate, my princes, generals, officers and soldiers were acting all around various scenes of frantic madness and unbounded joy, on the unexpected recovery of their wives, children or dear relations. The shore resounded now with shouts of universal joy, scarce did one clouded brow shew the least mark of dissatisfaction, and perhaps

perhaps their king was the only one amongst them who felt for what was past.

“THE deputy of the Brahmins observing I was silent, nay that the smile of sympathetic pleasure began to chear my countenance, took courage to approach, and humbly proposed for me to reside in the royal apartment of the sacred college, which was prepared for my reception. I thanked his loyal zeal, accepted his offer, and taking Locaster, Naretti and the principal officers of state with me accompanied the Brahmins to their colledge.

ON entering the great hall the chief sage Haramath, with the elders of the college

college met me, and paying low obeisance to their king, conducted me to where an elegant collation was provided for my refreshment. I partook of this repast till nature was sufficed, then calling Locaster to me, in consideration of his age and dignity I ordered him to be seated, and bade him relate all the particulars of my country's fall—
The noble sage bowed and obeyed—

“It was your absence, oh king! and the absence of the lords and princes of the realm, planted the seeds of this dire mischief. The want of such examples, and the loss of this authoritative influence in favour of good manners, was instantly severely felt. The whole virtue of

“ the

“ the land, and all that was great,
“ honourable or honest, forsook it to-
“ gether, leaving only feeble age and
“ unstable youth to encounter vice.
“ The secret veneration that follows
“ goodness, and that awe of greatness
“ and virtue which restrains the vici-
“ ous, and prevents the commission of
“ innumerable atrocious crimes offen-
“ sive to heaven, was no more to be
“ found in Moteira. Vice and licen-
“ tiousness sprung up like weeds in a
“ rank glebe, and overspread the na-
“ tion.

“ A ~~gay~~ and wicked queen, whose
“ heart was susceptible of voluptuous
“ pleasures only, banished piety and
“ business from the court converting

“ all the serious affairs of state into
“ mirth and festivity, and protecting
“ the sons of riot in all their base ex-
“ cesses. This was speedily produc-
“ tive of a disregard and aversion to
“ government, and followed by a con-
“ tempt of authority and power, till at
“ length magistrates durst no longer
“ execute the laws, nor could I find
“ one man of courage in the kingdom
“ to assist me in stemming the torrent.

“ Thus all things verged on fast to
“ ruin, for as sure as that elegance,
“ taste and virtue in the royal breast
“ will universally diffuse the benignity
“ of its influence, so surely a vicious
“ court will make a vicious people.
“ Impunity, the parent and nurse of

“ wick-

“ wickedness, and the fear to punish,
“ worse than impunity itself, brought
“ the whole kingdom in very short
“ space of time to the pinnacle of vice.
“ From this source sprung rapine, theft,
“ assassination, and total extinction of
“ the fear of the immortal gods—so
“ natural, so swift and certain a tran-
“ sition does licence and anarchy pro-
“ duce from virtue and piety to pro-
“ faneness and atheism.

“ To sum up this sad account in as
“ few words as may be, deceit and
“ perjury, incest and parricide, adul-
“ tery and unnatural lusts, were open-
“ ly committed without shame, re-
“ morse, or reprehension. No won-
“ der then that gods were angry, or
“ that

“that immortal Bramma should give
“the sword of destruction into the
“hands of Ixora to execute his ven-
“geance upon all the sons of violence,
“and to extirpate from the earth the
“miserable remains they had left.

“TEN days before this wrathful
“sentence was put in execution, I
“early entered the palace, and held
“a warm debate with the queen upon
“her shameful conduct. Ineffectual
“were my exhortations or reproaches,
“for insensibility to every noble mo-
“tive of action steeled her soul against
“all the arguments of reason, honour,
“or virtue. Vexed and wearied by
“my fruitless toil I descended into the
“royal garden, and flinging myself
“upon

“ upon a flowery bank, was overcome
“ by sleep. My busy imagination now
“ represented confused traces of past
“ transactions, and I thought myself
“ hard labouring to reform abuses,
“ when suddenly a messenger dispatch-
“ ed from the immortal Vistnou de-
“ scended from the high empyreum
“ and thus addressed me—

“ AWAKE, Locaster ! get thee quick
“ hence with thy family, and what
“ small remnant thou mayst yet glean
“ of virtue and piety ; haste with these
“ to the sacred mountains of Maldivia,
“ and there behold the judgment that
“ shall be poured upon this devoted
“ people.

“ THE celestial messenger then
“ struck me on the shoulders with a
“ wand, and soared away. I awoke
“ yet smarting with the blow, and
“ looking upwards plainly distinguish-
“ ed the lucid tract by which he af-
“ cended to the starry realms. Thus
“ convinced of the reality of the vision
“ I arose, and hastening to my own pa-
“ lace, caused proclamation to be in-
“ stantly made throughout thy domi-
“ nions of an intended sacrifice to the
“ parent-goddess, to which I invited
“ all the good and pious with their fa-
“ milies and effects. Then gathering
“ together all whom I found worthy
“ to be preserved, as infants, pious wo-
“ men, men bowed with years, and
“ especially the wives and children of

“ Mo-

“ Moteira’s princes, chieftans, and soldiers gone with thee to the war, and having with much solicitation prevailed upon the queen also to go with me, I sat out with this company to the holy province, and being arrived on the ninth day at the town of Waffendew, found many already assembled from different extremities of thy kingdom. While I was anxiously looking over this host, and fearful that many pious persons might have neglected the summons, a voice issued from heaven saying— “ All are arrived whom the gods will preserve, and more are here than will partake of the favour of heaven— “ Rest in peace Locaster, and wait the will of the great Bramma.”

woobin

H 4

“ THE

“ THE tenth day came ; the sun rising from his watry palace mildly
“ shot his new-born beams, and gilded
“ all the horizon with placid smiles—
“ all nature appeared to be joyful, and
“ even the inanimate creation seemed
“ to partake of the pleasures of that
“ glorious morn—when lo ! at once,
“ in a single moment, the skies were
“ overcast with a horrid melancholy
“ gloom, a darkness without night, or
“ rather night dull-illumined ! straight
“ followed such terrific thunder as
“ mortal ears ne'er before heard, the
“ earth now trembled with rude con-
“ vulsiye shocks, and from Maldivia’s
“ summit we beheld innumerable vul-
“ canos burst forth in the distant pro-
“ vinces, and now we heard a hoarse
“ hideous

“ hideous crack, deeper than thunder,
“ and more terrible than imagination
“ can conceive—Then, then we saw
“ thy wide stretched dominions rent
“ from this little peninsula and over-
“ whelmed in the ocean—so far as
“ sight could reach the outragious and
“ irresistible torrent poured over the
“ hills and plains, and with horrid
“ roaring overflowed the pagodes, and
“ thy peopled cities, till at length the
“ whole spacious, pleasant, fruitful re-
“ gion, with all its riches, buildings,
“ and inhabitants fell headlong into the
“ deep abyss.

“ IN this instant the sixteen handed
“ god descended to the mid-sky in
“ flaming vestments, upon a chariot of
“ fire, drawn by wrathful dragons, and
“ dart-

“ darting livid lightnings from every
“ hand, in a voice of thunder thus ex-
“ claimed —— “ Moteira is no more !
“ Thus the rulers of heaven punish
“ the impious despisers of the gods !”
“ Then soaring upwards the angry
“ god soon was lost to mortal ken.

“ ASTONISHED, and almost dead
“ with horror, I turned towards the
“ queen—but, oh my lord ! what was
“ she now ! In her form the same, the
“ same dimpling rosy countenance, the
“ same beauteous pattern of shape and
“ symmetry that charmed all eyes, and
“ won all hearts ; but alas ! her eyes
“ were fixed, she ceased to breathe,
“ she was stiffened into marble ! Lost
“ in amazement, I contemplated this
“ awful change with fixed attention,

" but scarcely had collected my con-
" fused ideas, when Angeleia crum-
" bled into dust, and sunk down at my
" feet a little hill of sand.

" THUS was the vengeance of the
" gods compleated and ever since, in-
" structed by heaven, we have waited
" oh king! for thy return to conduct
" this wretched remnant of Moteira to
" far distant climes, for though the
" gods have permitted a thousand i-
" slands to arise from out of the ruins
" of thy country, this is to be no lon-
" ger the residence of the sacred fire,
" or the nation which thou art to com-
" mand."

" Here Locaster ceased his melan-
choly tale, and we wept together over

R A H O the

the recent woe, but I soon recovered my wonted serenity, and thus endeavoured to hush his griefs—“ My faithful servant, my dearest friend, the companion and instructor of my youth ! stop thy tears and lamentations. The will of the gods must be obeyed. Patient resignation becomes poor mortals. Virtue will never be forsaken and Vishnou herself will be our protector. This night we dedicate to rest, in the morning we will seek the hallowed grove, and learn the will of heaven from our maternal shrine—Holy Haramath we crave thy early attendance at the golden altar ; for this night farewell !” So saying each to his repose departed.

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CHAP. IV.

ad fibulae ad lumborum ad lumbarum

THE grey dawn no sooner preluded the approach of the morning but I quitted my downy couch, and calling to Locaster and noble train, ascended to the pagode of my celestial parent. Here the hoary Brahman Harramath with his officiating brethren were already assembled and prepared for the sacred rites. They met us in procession at the wide entrance of the

hallowed

hallowed grove, chanting to soft music
a pastoral hymn in praise of the divi-
nity. Then received from my hand
a golden censor filled with incense,
they lighted the fragrant offering, and
facing about to the pagode, raised their
harmony to louder strains till we came
to a turf^y altar in the midst of the
grove; there they placed the burning
censor, and in solemn silence were
proceeded to the holy fane, when a
rustling was heard amidst the trees,
and a frightened deer started across the
path, celestial rays beamed through
the brown shade, and now the goddes^s
herself stood confessed to sight encir-
cled with rays of heavenly glory. In
her right hand she held a sword, in
her left she had a gleaming ægis, her
heavenly nymphs attending round.

“ DISMISS

AN INDIAN TALE. 111

“ DISMISS, said she, dismiss thy
“ griefs my son! forget thy perished
“ kingdom and thy impious queen—
“ The immortal gods, and all the gods
“ are true, have promised they will
“ bring thee to a better country and
“ a fairer bride—Take then this sword
“ and gird it on thy loins, it is of hea-
“ venly origin, so tempered that no
“ mortal force can break it, nor mor-
“ tal arms withstand its power. Take
“ this ægis too which is the fabric of
“ Ixora’s armourers, fraught with me-
“ dicinal virtue to encourage thee un-
“ der oppression, to guard thee from
“ fascinations, and to preserve thy
“ heart against the delusive snares of
“ lustful women.”

“ BEFORE

“BEHOLD this forest maid, my
“faithful nymph Quehdra!—Her will
“I send with thee, my son! over
“lands and seas a wakeful friend,
“armed with all my guardian powers,
“for thy protection against envious
“genii or cruel deities of inferior or-
“der. She shall be the monitor to
“advise thee of all thou art to know;
“and the pilot that shall save thee
“from all thou hast to fear; while she
“remains with thee thy ships shall not
“be destroyed at sea, and while thou
“art directed by her councils thou
“shalt be secure on land.

“BUT forget not the eternal rules of
“heaven, on whom thou and we, and
“all depend—What is man, what are
“the

“the genii, or what the guardian deities, if Ixora, Vistnou, or the great Bramma, disapprove their conduct !”

“SHE ceased to speak and faded from my eye like the colours of the rainbow. I then turned to Locaster, and embracing him, bade the noble sage repair to the navy and vigilantly fit it out for new, and unknown voyages, taking on board the holy fire, with all the reverend tribe that attended it, and disposing the rest of the people in the best manner possible to secure their health and ease.

“Next addressing the sage Haramarh I ordered him to appoint a sufficient number of Brahmins with their wives and children to remain at Mal-

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"Next addressing the sage Haramarh I ordered him to appoint a sufficient number of Brahmins with their wives and children to remain at Mal-

divia for the sacred offices of religion, and telling him that all who had no connection with my army were to continue on the islands, bade him send the elders of the people to my apartments in the college to settle their future government, and then with my princes I returned to the college.

“ THE next day the elders came to me, and in full council I directed them in what manner to form their infant state, to preserve their virtue and independency from the oppression of domestic or foreign tyrants. Then gave them a short code of laws for the regulation of their morals, policy, and religion, and recommending them to the protection

tection of the gods, dismissed the virtuous sages.

“ IN a few days more Locaster told me all was ready for the sea, I therefore hasted to the port, and summoning together the chiefs of my people upon shore, addressed them thus—

“ PRINCES! chieftans! fellow-soldiers! ye great remains of the empire, and worthy monuments of your lost country! Since the vengeful gods have overthrown Moteira, and at once engulfed her lofty towers, her rich soil, her diamond quarries, and her hills of gold, nor leave behind one sign of fallen grandeur, one noble ruin for future ages to admire, what have we more to do but to

“ obey

“ obey almighty Vishnou, and under
 “ her providential guidance search for
 “ that happier land which she has guar-
 “ anteed unto us:

“ BUT to stop each murmuring voice
 “ ere it can breathe complaint, be it
 “ known among you that if any will
 “ desert their king, and fly from his
 “ misfortunes and his glory—if any be
 “ faint hearted, and prefer rest to toil
 “ and suffering, let them here remain
 “ with the orphan infants, and the
 “ helpless old, whom the gods have
 “ directed me to leave to cultivate
 “ these thousand islands, and repeople
 “ these desert wastes.”

“ I CEASED speaking, and looked
 round to see who would separate from
 the

the royal standard; but so great was the virtue of my people, and so strong their faith in the gods, that not one amongst the thousands by whom I was surrounded, asked permission to stay at Maldivia, or was tempted by the fruitful kingdoms of the continent to forsake their sovereign. Even those whom the gods ordained to inhabit the isles, wept to accompany their countrymen through all the dangers of the boisterous ocean; but this could not be granted, I therefore bade them adieu in this short harangue—“ Farwel
“ my loyal subjects—be happy here—
“ let towering pagodes, and a new
“ Moteira rise upon this shore, and com-
“ mand these thousand isles—Blest be
“ your seed-time and your harvest, and

“blest your ships, which now must
“be your best defence, the source,
“and the support of all your power—
“Be faithful to the gods, be honest to
“all men, and the parent-goddess,
“Anhema shall be your sure pro-
“tector.”

“I THEN embraced, and the winds
being fair, we hoisted sail and left the
weeping shore unknowing what course
to steer. To heaven resigned, and
submissive to the guidance of Quendra,
we bore away before the winds re-
gardless where they drove us. Thus
long had we sailed, far distant from
all lands, and out of every sea we
knew, when at last two islands appear-
ed before us divided only by a narrow
streight,

freight, into which we pushed the fleet by Quendra's direction. The freight was so narrow that we easily discerned the country and inhabitants on either side, as we passed along.

"ON the right hand it was all a landscape of sorrow, every eye was dull, and every aspect cheerless, disease assumed all its various shapes of horror to affright and disgust the beholder, the earth was barren, the sun-beams played not upon the waters, nor did the airy choristers delight the ear; but instead of these chilling mists descended, owls hooted, and ravens croaked hoarse notes that flunned the hearer.

"FROM this dejected view we gladly turned our eyes to the other coast,

which formed a perfect contrast to this sad scene of woe and misery—Here in one quarter we beheld the youths and virgins dancing to lascivious measures—in another they were hunting the Wolfe or shaggy bear, throwing the javelin, or shooting the silver arrow—then in another they were wrestling for the possession of some field or mountain—while the sons of idleness indulged their enervated limbs in Jexca's shady bowers, or listened to the soft strains of harmony. All here was life and spirit, the earth was fruitful, mellifluous songsters filled the air, the sun-beams shone resplendent, and universal joy reigned triumphant.

“I MUSED upon these different scenes as we sailed up the streight,
which

which narrowed much as we advanced, and at last discovered to my astonished view, a grand majestic building, raised above the waters upon arches of vast magnitude, and extending from shore to shore—Struck with this noble sight, and the celestial Quendra being then visible at the helm, I could no longer contain my eager wish to know what were these countries, and this stupendous structure? The gentle goddess was indulgent and thus replied—

“ On the left you behold the valley
“ of pleasure, and on the right the
“ deserts of pain. The stately fabric
“ before you is the bridge of time. It
“ began with the world, and will only
“ end at the consummation of all things.

“ The

“ The great Bramma himself was the
“ architect, by whom it was erected
“ to preserve an uninterrupted inter-
“ course between pleasure and pain,
“ and inseparably to unite vice with
“ misery upon this globe.

“ BEHOLD its arches how wide and
“ durable! observe how rich, how
“ elegant, and just are all its orna-
“ ments! nor neglect to notice those
“ sky-mounting turrets, which are
“ watch-towers for the good genii who
“ are constantly employed to record
“ all the actions of men, and report
“ them to the everlasting judge.

“ Now Rajah Kisna! look again to
“ the left—There you see parties every
where

“ where rolling in voluptuous delights,
“ and immersing themselves in sensu-
“ ality. They set no bounds to their
“ voracious appetite, and openly reject
“ all the restraints of reason—They
“ wish ever to continue in this charm-
“ ing valley, and even flatter themselves
“ that it has no end, yet, as you see,
“ by an insensible, irresistible attrac-
“ tion they are daily drawn in whole
“ phalanxes to the bridge, some by a
“ stronger, and some by a weaker
“ force, but all with a visible reluc-
“ tance, for no sooner have they reach-
“ ed the fatal boundary, than siezed
“ by the watchful genii, they are huri-
“ ed over to those dry dismal deserts
“ on the other side to pass the residue
“ of their days on earth.

egbind

“ BUT

“ But by close observation, you
“ may perceive amongst these votaries
“ of riot and pleasure, many of a dif-
“ ferent kind, more steady in their con-
“ duct, and majestic in their appear-
“ ance. They walk under the fig and
“ pomegranate without gathering them.
“ They pass by beauty without gloat-
“ ing on it. They sit near rivers of
“ nectar and drink not. They endea-
“ vor to restrain the sons of volup-
“ tuousness, and they sacrifice to the
“ gods—These are the sons of wisdom
“ and self-denial, what nature and
“ reason dictate, and what the gods
“ allow, that they do and that only—
“ These therefore are never seen to
“ go to the other shore, but when by
“ slow approaches they arrive at the
“ bridge,

bridge, the good genii conducts them
“to Vishnou, who granting them at
“once the high priviledge of passing
“into the last state of pious mortals,
“gives them to rule one of yon starry
“orbs, till becoming demigods, they
“roam at large through boundless
“space.”

“ WHILE the heavenly nymph was
yet speaking, a dead calm stopt our
progress on the water, insomuch that
we made but little way, we gently,
however, approached the bridge, and
must soon pass through it, when Quen-
dra thus continued—

“ OBSERVE, oh prince! the center
“arch, it is full of emblematic devices
“of

“ of curious workmanship. This is
“ the arch of virtue, and the rea-
“ diest path to Calaiiya. All that go
“ through this are sure to find that
“ happy country if they keep steady
“ in their course; but if they deviate
“ to the right or left, they soon are
“ lost.

“ On the right hand is the arch of
“ power and earthly eminence. On
“ the left hand is the arch of wealth
“ and pleasure. These are finely
“ sculptured, adorned with onyx, and
“ jasper, and the diamond shines re-
“ plendent in their centers. Caught
“ by their lustre, the sons of men too
“ slightly regard the simple but more
“ noble beauties of the middle arch,
“ and rush their vessels through them
“ unheedful

“ unheedful of the seas to which they
“ lead.

“ Now prince make your choice—
“ You are upon the waves of human
“ life, and as you chuse will be your
“ future fate. The outward arches
“ lead to waters calm and smooth at
“ first, fanned by gentle breezes, and
“ overspread by laughing skies. The
“ arch of virtue opens to an ocean oft
“ exposed to storms, and often dark-
“ ened by heavy clouds; but rough
“ as its first appearance may be, the
“ undeviating sailor shall surely escape
“ the burning surge, the winds with
“ wings sulphureous, and the storms
“ and tempests which in the end de-
“ stroy the deluded mariner caught
“ by

“ by the glare of pleasure, wealth, or
“ power.”

“ THE nymph ceasing waited my
“ reply—“ The middle arch, oh god-
“ deſs! I exclaimed, where'er ſhe
“ leads let virtue be my choice; to
“ Viſtnou with chearful confidence I
“ leave the event.”

“ THE nymph benignly smiling wa-
ved her wand, when instantly a brisk
gale sprung up and bore us through
the center arch. The waves run high,
and the winds blew hard, and tossed
our vessels much; but scarce was the
whole fleet advanced into the main,
when we began to enjoy a temperate
ſky, with breezes as soft as the breath
of Marill, and pure as the air, of Ca-
laiiya,

Iaiiya, while the sea rolled smooth,
and our ships flew on propitious.

“ LONG had we thus traversed over
the smiling ocean, still hoping and
looking for the promised kingdom,
when a new wonder, more amazing
than aught we yet had seen, appeared
before us—A peopled country, with
all its rivers, forests, buildings floating
on the waters, and slowly sailing on
almost within our reach; we seemed
to follow fast, and thought each mo-
ment to cast our anchors on its shores,
but still this pleasing prodigy eluded
our utmost vigilence.

“ FROM the main-mast head I view-
ed this wonderous isle. Oh lovely Sa-

rassada ! how fair was the appearance, how splendid shewed this swimming land. The inhabitants seemed superior to the human race, beatitude was in their mein, and their countenances beamed with the smiles of content and heavenly joy. The theming earth abounded with rich loads of fruit and grain of every sort. The flowery vales, the meandering rivers, the rising hills, formed such an inconceivable variety of elegant landscapes, and enchanting prospects as perhaps no other country in the world can boast. The superb grandeur, and bold simplicity of the buildings discovered ingenuity, magnificence and a taste refined. Every thing bespoke order and stability in their government, politeness and virtue

in their conduct. Enraptured with this animating view of true felicity I called upon the flying land to stop its course—
but the flying land would not stop.

“ Oh stay, I cried, thou wandering
“ seat of bliss ! whither art thou float-
“ ing ? Stop thy flight fair phantom,
“ and let me rest upon thy blisful
“ shores—ah ! let my wearied mariners
“ partake of thy refreshing streams,
“ give them of thy rich fruits, and per-
“ mit them to gather new strength in
“ thy flowery vales, to encounter new
“ difficulties in this tedious voyage,
“ wherein uncertainty almost swal-
“ lows hope.”

“ Thus I called, but my calls had
no effect unless to frighten the island

from me, for while I yet was speaking it bore away with amazing celerity, and in a few minutes was absolutely lost to our view, though we pursued the phantom with crowded sail.

“ QUENDRA now again was visible, and from her I hoped the solution of these wonders—“ Ah tell me sacred guardian ! what is this new phænomenon, this wonderous vision, which appeared but to raise my wishes, and to disappoint my hopes?”

“ THE holy nymph replied—“ The island that has fled you now, is an emblem of the glorious country that the gods have given you—This blest Calaiiya was once united to the continent,

“tinent, the mart of holiness and virtue, where lived a pious race devoted to great Bramma, and devoid of guile. The silly inhabitants at length grew weary of the bliss they felt, and roamed abroad in search of more varied scenes of joy. Thus they lost the virtue of their fathers, and become strangers upon foreign shores where neither shelter nor sustenance was to be procured. Too late they saw their folly and would willingly have returned to their native land; but the gods eternally wise and just, since they had slighted their elysium when in possession, determined to deprive them of it for ever. Ixora therefore tore it from its place, he broke the adamantine chain that

“ linked it to the center, and set it
“ adrift to be the sport of winds, and
“ to roam unceasing over the world of
“ water, an object still of vain desire,
“ and endless hope.

“ **HENCE** are the labyrinths and
“ eternal errors that poor mortals are
“ entwined in. With restless thought
“ from age to age they rove after this
“ land. They cross the seas, they
“ change the zodiacks, and fly from
“ realm to realm in vain. Some seek
“ it through the arches of riches or
“ power, others in the fields of sci-
“ ence, but more in Chueran’s wanton
“ bowers. — All however with like
“ event, or if any chance to get a tran-
“ sient view of it, quickly it deceives
“ their

" their hopes, and flies from them like
" an eagle in the clouds. Tired at
" last, and baffled in all their efforts,
" they begin to doubt the existence of
" of the country; to place it amongst
" the dreams of a fanciful imagina-
" tion, or to suppose it in the heavens
" beyond the reach of man.

" BUT now, O prince! the day ap-
" proaches, when the relenting gods
" shall refix this land of promise where
" first it stood, and give Calaiya to thy
" rule. Be this thy comfort under
" every evil, and in every afflicting
" hour, when the object of thy hopes
" seems to be snatch'd from thy pos-
" session, remember the burning heats,
" and long seasons of drought that

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" were

" were in Moteira, when the flatter-
 " ing clouds would daily raise your
 " hopes of rain, then suddenly dif-
 " perse and leave you open to the
 " scorching sun; thus week after week
 " would pass in tantalizing mockery,
 " but at last the soft warm drops surely
 " fell, the earth and air were re-
 " freshened, the lawns recovered their
 " verdure, and the valleys sung for
 " joy."

" Thus with her sweet accents
Quendra soothed my soul while I held
 on my course in the golden tract
 unwavering, till at last some dæmon
 envious of the happiness I seemed so
 nearly to have obtained, raised a false
 phantom to bewitch my fancy, and de-

lude

lude me from my course.—A floating island seemed to arise at a great distance upon our right hand, the exact resemblance of Calaiiya. Full of rapture at the sight, I precipitately changed my course, and bent my swelling sails towards the fatal vision, without even wishing to consult Quendra.

“ Thus deviating from the tract by which the gods had appointed me to steer for my destined kingdom, I exchanged that placid sea for a rough ocean, and overclouded sky, nor ever saw again the delusive vapour by which I was beguiled.

“ SENSIBLE of the dangers that hung impending over our devoted heads

heads in this boisterous ocean, we crowded sail and drove before the wind, to make some port in which we might refresh ourselves, and prepare our ships to encounter high seas and tempestuous skies. Nor was it long before we arrived at the promontory of Ormuz, where we cast our anchors, and remained till we imagined it was a proper season to set sail anew. Sayed again from storms and darkness, gracious Vishnu brought us to the fruitful shores of Mindano, and conducted us to Sarassada's hospitable palace.

RAJAH Kisna having thus described the fatal downfall of Moteira, and his subsequent wanderings, the queen expressed

pressed her thanks and satisfaction, then arose, and all retired to needful rest.

CHAP. V.

was gathered in early life, and now the fear
of losing him struck horror to her soul.
Now hope prevailed, till last in a fit
of passion, she gently drew bed, and
her cheeks, and heavy sighs burst
from her bosom, as she lay there, her eyes
closed, and her spirit left upon the earth.
It was now deep night, and every
one in the house was asleep.—
Every window was filled up by burning pine
tar, which however would not put out
the glowing coals longer than half an hour,
the various colored lights ceased their
peculiar glow, and universally
was extinguished in early life, and now the fear
of losing him struck horror to her soul.
Now hope prevailed, till last in a fit
of passion, she gently drew bed, and
her cheeks, and heavy sighs burst
from her bosom, as she lay there, her eyes
closed, and her spirit left upon the earth.
It was now deep night, and every
one in the house was asleep.—
Every window was filled up by burning pine
tar, which however would not put out
the glowing coals longer than half an hour,
the various colored lights ceased their
peculiar glow, and universally

CHAP.

RAJAH KISNA,

C H A P. V.

IT was now deep night fast verging
to the star-set, when all eyes were
closed but the unhappy Saraffada's.—
Every wind was still, the panting hind
heard neither hounds nor huntsmen,
the sportive flocks forgot their play,
the various coloured birds ceased their
cheerful songs, and universal nature
was hushed in calm repose, undisturbed

CHAP.

but by the storms that love had raised
in Saraffada's breast. —— Waking and
restless she lay upon her downy couch,
Rajah Kisna engrossed all her thoughts,
his image was ever present, his voice
sounded in her ears, and now the fear
of losing him struck horror to her soul,
now hope prevailed, till lost in a war
of passions, the pearly tears bedewed
her cheeks, and heavy sighs burst
forth from her tortured bosom. Then
thus to herself she exclaimed:

“ WHAT means this tenderness?
“ what are the soft consuming fires that
“ melt me thus? Why in alternate
“ play does my panting bosom thus
“ fwell and sink, and my weak eyes
“ keep measure with it? Weep on,
“ eyes,

“ eyes, throb, throb foolish bosom ! O
“ wretched Saraffada, whither wilt
“ thou fly for comfort ?! Haste thee
“ hence thou lovely baneful stranger,
“ haste to thy appointed queen ! shew
“ me no more thy mother’s gifts, nor
“ let me hear again of thy kingdom’s
“ fall.—Ah ! wherefore did I ever
“ gaze upon thy portrait, wherefore
“ listen to thy fatal tale.

“ Alas my heart whither wilt thou
“ lead me ? Shall Saraffada rush into
“ captivity and sue for chains ? Have
“ not all the princes of the east bowed
“ down before me ? who is there
“ among the sons of fame that has not
“ sought my smiles ? and shall I now
“ unasked put on the yoke, shall I
“ forget

“ forget my sex’s honour, and at the
“ heroes feet proclaim my passion?—
“ Forbid it reason!

“ **W**HAT is there in this wandering
“ monarch that thus enchanteth me!—
“ why has the son of Anhema—ah!
“ there it is—thence flows my smart—
“ it is not the king, the warrior, the
“ suffering hero—it is not his own or
“ country’s fame, nor is it the manly
“ graces of his person—no—it is the
“ goddess-born that captivates me,—
“ perhaps the rest may help to fix the
“ chain, for who can behold beauty,
“ glory, birth, illustrious sorrows, and
“ matchless valour unmoved?—Not
“ Bacchus’ self could conquer India
“ unassisted, nor can one perfection
“ subdue

“ subdue Saraffada—all the gods, and
 “ all the heroes meet in Rajah Kisna,
 “ another Siri-Rama and a new De-
 “ vaindra are leagued against me.

“ But wherefore lay I thus Ja-
 “ menting ! why cherish baseless
 “ griefs !—The king may meet my
 “ flame with mutual fires, for sure
 “ this face has not already lost its em-
 “ pire, and I too claim my kindred
 “ gods—When he sees my blushes,
 “ when he knows my pain, soft sym-
 “ pathy may warm his heart—But,
 “ oh ye gods ! how shall he know
 “ it ?—my faltering tongue will lose
 “ its powers, my eyes will languish
 “ unobserved, and the speaking blush
 “ will pass for virgin modesty.”

THUS

THUS did the fond queen commune with her too susceptible heart, changing alternately from doubt to hope, wearying her soul and wishing for the return of day, that she might renew the tender assiduities of love, and by every friendly office of hospitality awake the gratitude and win the esteem of her royal guest.

THE morning came, and Saraffada arose to prosecute her generous plan. She met her conqueror with smiles and blushes, and failed not to enquire how she best could contribute to his ease and pleasure, while heaven permitted his residence at Mindano. The king with delight attended to her words, and frankly told her the wants

both of his people and himself, not forgetting the minutest article necessary to their welfare. Saraffada instantly gave orders to her people to supply the Moteiranians in the camp and fleet with all they wanted, and to assist the shipwrights with all their powers.

Thus did the fair queen display her warm affection ; but a noble pride and soft delicacy restrained her tongue from the most distant discovery of the tender sensations that glowed round her heart. Her past delights and former labours were forgotten—no more with curious eye she penetrated nature's amazing operations——she ceased from the greatest works of public

public utility, and was no more intent to firm the marshy land, to erect stately bridges, to open new roads, to finish her half-built cities, to strengthen her navy, or to exercise her troops—all these royal cares were dropt—Her only thoughts were to engage the affections of the king, and from him it was death to be separated. She would lead him through the shades of love-inspiring groves, and after frequent loungings in bowers of vine and laurel, or under the myrtle and jessamine shade, bring him round again to her palace by long palm-tree walks, where the gliding streams murmured on, attuned to tenderness.

IN the palace all was mirth and splendid dissipation. The queen hoped the

soothing witchcraft of music's thrilling powers might soften the king, and frequently she accompanied the lute with the sweetest voice that nature ever gave, or harmony could form. By feasts and dancings she also strove to melt his soul, and hoped in some soft hour to entrap the youth; but his heroic mind not being moved by sensual joy, she once more changed her plan, and vigilantly returning to the cares of state, displayed her wisdom and magnanimity in the rigorous prosecution of those stupendous works she had begun. Here the illustrious queen appeared in every act, her riches, strength and power were amazing proofs of her great spirit, and won the admiration of the hero; his esteem,

his

his friendship was secured, but not his love. Cool indifference to all the personal beauties of the queen was visibly stamp'd upon his countenance, whenever through gallantry he took her hand, no tender pressure spoke animation in his breast, calm and even was his conduct, and all his tendernesses unmeaning of aught but friendship. All the arts of Saraffada were unavailing to move his stedfast mind from the high purposes of heaven. Like the sturdy oak assailed by gentle zephyrs, he resisted their force, and accounted them but courtly breeding and politeness, or works of use and lasting grandeur, destined for some other hero.—Such was the virtue of

L 3 that

that bright ægis which the maternal goddess gave the king.

TIME instead of forwarding Saraffada's hopes but the more confirmed her fears, till at length growing desperate, she thought her sex's delicacy an unjust restraint upon her love, and resolved at all events to learn her destiny. Much wavering and many hard struggles in her mind preceded this resolution, but at last she seized an opportunity when Rajah Kisna was alone to address him thus:—

“I HAVE shewn you, oh king! my fair realm, my riches, and my strength.

“ You

“ You have seen my cities, and my
“ cultivated country, both well peo-
“ pled with an hardy race; these are
“ the rising grandeurs of a state in
“ which agriculture, arts, and science
“ are continually improving. Were
“ you not destined for another coun-
“ try, a kingdom wrapt in the clouds,
“ you might peradventure find the
“ rest you seek for here. But are you
“ sure this is not the state the gods
“ have designed for you?—The ora-
“ cles of heaven are oft obscure, and
“ only to be unveiled by the event.
“ You found us a wandering nation,
“ flying from the worship of the great
“ Bramma, and devoted to the so-
“ phistry of the Samaraeths, you have
“ fixed us to the continent of the

“ Viedam and the Shaftah, and in
 “ return the crown is offered to
 “ you.

“ OR if it be not so, yet will not
 “ heaven dispense with strict obe-
 “ dience to its harsh commands? It is
 “ the gods that brought you here, it
 “ is the same high powers that have
 “ awaked my sleeping passions, and
 “ wherefore but to make you happy?
 “ Think you that Vistnou can delight
 “ to afflict her faithful votaries, why
 “ then should she torment a virtuous
 “ king, and a people devoted to her
 “ worship, with ceaseless doubts, and
 “ ever-new calamities—It cannot be—
 “ here the divinity has fixed you,
 “ seize the blessing she has given, fit
 “ upon

“ upon my throne and reign with me
“ in peace—My palaces, my towns,
“ yon wide extended pastures, all
“ court you for their lord, and al-
“ ready call you master.”

THE fond queen here ceased, and
the king stood long silent with a
thoughtful brow, then thus replied—

“ WERE it given me, oh queen!, to
“ chuse the lot that I best liked, and
“ might I pitch the royal standard of
“ Moteira where my own desires di-
“ rected, no country could be more
“ attractive than Mindano, nor can
“ any queen exceed the lovely Sa-
“ raffada, in whom wisdom, virtue,
“ and beauty are united with grace
“ and

" and dignity.—But fate forbids me
 " not in obscure oracles, but in clear
 " express commands.—The great di-
 " rector of human events, whose will
 " I dare not controvert or evade,
 " has bid me seek another kingdom,
 " nor rest till I have found it.

" WILT thou, gentle Saraffada !
 " roam with me over the wide waste
 " of waters, and leave thy infant state,
 " and increasing glories, to expose that
 " delicate frame to all the hardships
 " of a maritime life, to rove about a
 " titled interloper on foreign states,
 " and after all remain uncertain whe-
 " ther thou art the queen designed
 " for me by heaven.—This can never
 " be !

" LET

“ LET me then pay the just ac-
“ knowledgements I owe thee, let me
“ bless and thank thee for the protec-
“ tion thou hast granted in my distress.
“ —Accept my vows of unalter-
“ able friendship—but tempt me not
“ to disobey the gods who in a mo-
“ ment can crush me into atoms, but
“ never will dispense with the strict
“ observance of their own commands,
“ which are all founded upon su-
“ preme wisdom, and enjoined with
“ views the most benevolent to man.”

SARASSADA's great spirit, and en-
larged understanding, together with
the natural elegance and delicacy of
her sentiments, prevented her from
discovering any marks of rage, at this
cutting
ted

cutting harrangue of the king's; but the strong emotions of her soul, in which anger, grief, and disappointed passion, all warred together, was too much for her frame, she swooned, and Rajah Kisna not having skill to recover her to life, called her women to her assistance, and full of anxiety retired into his own apartment.

THE assiduous virgins soon restored life to their royal mistress, and a copious flood of tears opportunely coming to her relief, the queen apparently recovered her usual serenity; but the canker-worm of grief was lodged in her heart, and shutting herself up in an inner apartment with her favourite maiden Reneca only, she indulged her

her sorrows as one lost to all the cares of state, and equally disregardful of her dignity or fame.

Thus mournfully immersed in tender woe the queen continued many days, when at once her attention was roused, and her hopes revived, by the sudden arrival of a messenger from Zemandra queen of Malacca, whose father had powerfully aided Saraffada on her first descent upon Mindano.

The business of this courier was to announce the approach of an ambassador from the Malaccan court, and to demand passports and pilots, to conduct him safe to Ketteris. These were instantly dispatched, and orders issued
from

from the queen to make due preparations for the reception of the foreigners. Then again restraining pomp, Saraffada ordered the courier to be introduced to her closet, and by close enquiries learnt the purport of embassy was to demand assistance against the Bisnouans, who threatened Malacca with a heavy invasion.

THE noble Malaccan made a public and splendid entry into Ketteris, and in a private interview with the queen, obtained the appointment of a short day for his public audience. The morning came, Saraffada arose and addressing herself to her confident Reneca said— “ Ah haste sweet “ maiden ! to prepare me for public

“ view

“ view—yes Zemandra we will grant
“ thy suit, we will arm our stout Min-
“ danoans in thy cause, and if Rajah
“ Kisna has any gallantry in his icy
“ constitution, he too shall defend thy
“ kingdom—Then my Reneca I will
“ change the downy ease of this palace
“ for the hardships and rough dangers
“ of a camp—then too if spirit and re-
“ solution can charm the heroic mind of
“ this cruel king, Saraffada will shew
“ him that she has a soul not undeser-
“ ving of his tenderest thoughts—Per-
“ haps the gods themselves will ordain
“ something from this event propitious
“ to the fond wishes that haunt thy
“ mistress’ breast—For this let heca-
“ tombs be sacrificed upon those altars
“ that we have newly raised, and let
“ clouds

" clouds of fragrance fill the pagode
" of the love-inspiring goddess Chu-
" eran."

Here ending her passionate apostrophe, and being arrayed in the magnificent habiliments of royalty, she descended to the great council chamber, where her princes and sages were already assembled, while the noble strangers waited for introduction. She ascended her ivory throne with anoble air, and Rajah Kisna being seated by her side on a chair of state, the ambassadors of Zemandra were ushered in. Saraffada received the noble strangers with all that easy dignity, and generous benevolence which gives the highest grace to human actions, and having examined

ned the credentials of Zoravan, the chief of the embassy, benignly encouraged him to speak the desires of his royal mistress—Then thus the chief addressed the queen—

“ Most renowned Saraffada! my sovereign Zemandra following the sage maxims of her venerable father, has long endeavoured to cultivate all the generous arts of peace in her realms, and to live unnoticed by the potent and barbarous Bisnouans. During the old-age of their late king Febri this was practicable, and she well succeeded in her patriot endeavours to cultivate in her people the sentiments of humanity, and to perfect them in the refined elegances of

“ life. But the ambitious youth Rax-
aza being now seated on the throne
of his ancestors, without cause or
even the pretence of a cause, de-
mands the surrender of the crown
and dignity, or threatens to pour his
numerous host as a mighty deluge
over her dominions. To resign her
people into the hands of a cruel ty-
rant be far from the magnanimous
Zemandra—but unaided to resist the
victorious armies that have so lately
conquered Pegu and Ava, she scarce-
ly can hope—to you therefore most
potent queen! as to a sister, friend,
and firm ally, she sends for suc-
cour, nor doubts your generous and
ready aid.”

HERE

HERE Zoravan ceased—then thus
the queen replied—“ Say, sage sena-
tors, will the present state of Mindano
admit of our sending the necessary
succours to Malacca? Ye can judge
impartially, and wisely determine for
your country, while friendship for
Zemandra, and admiration of her
fame and virtue may too much sway
your queen. In royal minds the
public still should be preferred to
private good. The gods can witness
that I wish to aid my dear ally with
all the forces of my kingdom if no
powerful reason stays my hand.

THE hoary sage Xenestro, who long
had bore the cares of state with vigour,
and in every place of high command

M 2 had

had won the sovereign's and the people's love by the wisdom and integrity of his conduct, spoke thus in answer to the queen—
“THE situation and peaceful temper of the surrounding islands forbids the apprehension of any near-approaching foreign broils, and the state of obedience and improving civilization to which the natives of this happy country are brought, deliver us from all fear of intestine commotions; we have therefore no cause to dread any war in Mindano,
“In this quiet state your soldiers, mighty queen! lose in inactivity that noble art by which they fixed your throne, In the fields of Ma-
bua
“Iacca,

“ lacca, let them exercise their bra-
“ very, regain whatever they have lost
“ of warlike skill, and save the great
“ Zemandra.”

THE council unanimously sided with Xenestro in advice so evidently agreeable to their Sovereign. Saraffada then turned her radiant eyes, shining at once with love and every noble sentiment upon the king, and thus addressed him—

“ You have heard, great king !
“ Zemandra’s suit, my council’s sage
“ advice, and know my wish to aid
“ her with the sword of conquest—
“ You know my country’s tranquil
“ state, have seen how great my military

“ power, and wisely can discern the
 “ best.—upon your ripened judge-
 “ ment my last resolves depend.

“ SAVAGE and barbarous are Ze-
 “ mandra’s foes, but well skilled in
 “ war, and flushed with recent con-
 “ quests; the mountains of Carassa
 “ which divide her kingdom from
 “ Bishoua, though steep and rugged,
 “ are not impassable; her people long
 “ inured to peace, and frightened at
 “ the trumpet’s sound, can ill defend
 “ their country against veteran foes;
 “ the tie of blood, the treaties between
 “ us, and the grateful remembrance
 “ of her royal father’s ready aid when
 “ I first landed in this island, all loudly
 “ call upon me to succour this injured
 “ queen

“ queen with all my force—nor is the
“ call confined to me alone—her pre-
“ sent state justly claims assistance from
“ every generous hero whose manly
“ soul, youth, beauty and wisdom can
“ warm to noble actions.

“ Such is the amiable Zemandra’s
“ state, and as I have represented are
“ my engagements—Say, generous
“ king! can I forbear to go, or you
“ resist the calls of honour and huma-
“ nity to rescue suffering virtue from
“ the proud oppressor’s sword? Our
“ soldiers are numerous, courageous,
“ and skillful—Let us then unite our
“ banners, and boldly lead them to
“ the field of arms—For this with joy
“ I’ll quit my glittering palace, my
“ palm-tree walks, my unfinished
M 4 “ works,

" works, and downy ease. I will
 " exchange this ivory sceptre for a
 " sword, and quit these robes of state
 " to be incased in arms. No female
 " fears invade my breast, but panting
 " for renown and glory, impatiently
 " I burn with you to be distinguished
 " in Virapaten's rough fields."

" THE queen ceased, and after a
 " short pause Rajah Kisna thus re-
 " plied:—Benevolence must cease to
 " warm the human heart, and cou-
 " rage no longer nerve the arm of
 " valour, when suffering virtue sues
 " in vain. Why is strength and agi-
 " lity given to man but to protect the
 " fair, shield the weak, and redress
 " the wronged?

" ZEMANDRA,

“ ZEMANDRA, mighty queen! now
“ justly claims the assistance of your
“ arms, nor, if heaven approves, shall
“ my trusty sabre rest in bloodless in-
“ dolence, when thus urged forth.
“ But first enquire if the gods approve
“ that we should lift up the protect-
“ ing shield, or draw the avenging
“ sword against the foes of inno-
“ cence.

“ VISTNOU governs the world with
“ providential care, and with infinite
“ wisdom appoints her chosen mi-
“ nisters to execute just vengeance
“ on the wicked, or reward the good,
“ nor ought frail man, unauthorized,
“ to assume her powers. Let us then
“ in solemn sacrifice devoutly enquire
“ into

"into her holy will, and what she
wills perform."

THE applauding council heard the pious king with true delight, and instantly proceeded with one voice to decree a solemn day of imploration to Vishnou and the immortal gods; then separated.

HUSHED now were Saraffada's griefs, a soothing calm stilled the anxieties of her heart, and momentary hope with its delusive sway suppressed each tender fear. Fondly impatient for the solemn day, which she imagined would decide her future fate, she often thought the lagging hours moved slowly on; but to beguile

guile the time, she once more summoned festive mirth to entertain her royal guest, and warm his breast to love; for this the genial board was crowned with choicest viands, the flowing goblet filled with generous wine, and music bid to display all its harmonious powers, while rosy nymphs engaged in cheerful dances, inspired joy and wonder. Rajah Kisna, whose manly soul was practised in the severer rules of virtue, gallantly partook of these enervating pleasures with apparent delight, but ne'er suffered them to taint his mind with idleness.

THE sacred morning came, and the holy trumpet sounding loud, proclaimed

claimed the ebon car of night withdrawn, and filled the souls of all the inhabitants of Ketteris with awful reverence of the immortal powers.

THE great pagode was early opened, and the courts all crowded with the people, then began the grand procession from the palace.—The Brahmins first issued forth in pairs, arrayed in the snowy robes of innocence, and each bearing in his hand some consecrated vessel, filled with incense, myrrh, fragrant spices, or the rich essence of the sweetest flowers: these were followed by a choice band of music, loudly tuning their instruments to hymns in praise of Vistnou: then came the grand Brahman

man enthroned in a chair of gold, upon an elephant ornamented with the richest trappings of the east, he bore about him the emblems of his gods ; there appeared the works of Bramma, here the transformations of Vistnou, and in another place the vengeful powers of Ixora ; then again a lively representation of the descent of the Viedam from heaven to the hoary-headed Gasurubum—he was followed by a noble train of courtiers in various ornamented carriages, each bearing the ensign of his office in the state, and all in magnificent habits, being accompanied by their ladies in the most splendid attires—the queen came next with Rajah Kisna by her side, in an ivory chariot drawn by tame

same lions, her royal robes were adorned with all the blazing jewels of the east, disposed in emblematic figures expressive of her hopes, her fears, her royalty, and love—this noble train was closed by the troops of each state armed and in array.

As the Brahmins entered the vestibule of the holy pagode, two boys habited like young genii, with outspread wings, and blazing torches in their hands, lighted the consecrated vessels as they passed, and the reverend sages hastening to the sacred altars, placed them thereon, and filled the holy edifice with odoriferous smoke. The grand Brahman then solemnly advancing to the golden altar

altar of Vistnou, while all the musical instruments resounded through echoing vaults, thus prayed the goddess:—

“ ALMIGHTY goddess! behold thy servants with regard, and accept their offerings we beseech thee.—“ Inform them of thy will, nor shall they act contrary to thy high commands. Shall Sarassada leave her realms, or Rajah Kisna draw a conqueror’s sword against the Bisnouan tyrant?—Are these thy chosen instruments to defend Zemandra from the proud oppression of her savage foe?”

His

His prayer being ended, the grand Brahman arose, strewed fresh incense on the flaming altar, and stood in reverential silence by its side.—The holy shrine now shook and the pagode trembled; the altar blazed with fiercer fires than yet had flamed thereon, and rays celestial shone resplendent all around it: the Brahman then beckoned Saraffada, who fired with fond impatience to know her fate, precipitately advanced, and falling prostrate before the holy shrine, the oracle thus spoke:—On Saraffada's “just resolves her happiness depends.”—“My just resolves,” exultingly the queen replied, “are to assist my sister and my friend.”—Alas, poor queen!

queen! how much more just had been the resolution to renounce the sway of passion, finish thy half-built cities, and well establish thy infant kingdom!

RAJAH Kisna next with suppliant heart waited prostrate to learn great Vistnou's will—gentle thunders now rolled over the holy dome, which opening in the center, gave admittance to the celestial Jexca, who descending to the altar stood amidst the flames arrayed in heavenly robes, and holding in her hand the torch of love, a reverend awe seized every breast at this amazing sight, and the profoundest silence was observed by all, while she thus declared the will divine.—

" Go king ! conquest and renown
 " await the ! henceforth be thy fate
 " joined to Zemandra's ! fear the
 " gods ; exercise reason and patience
 " in every circumstance, and be still
 " the favourite of heaven."

Thus saying, the celestial nymph ascended to her heavenly seat, and now a solemn service was offered up to all the gods, and while an hundred altars, blazing with the sacrifice of thanks, sent forth their grateful favours to the guardian deities, the Brahmins sung the mystery of the seven worlds, and instructed the people in the mighty works of creating Bramma, governing Vistnou, and avenging Ixora.

NIGHT

NIGHT put an end to these pious offices, and the people dispersing, the queen and Rajah Kisna retired to the palace blest by the grand Brahman, and happy in their own reflections upon the favours manifested towards them by the great ruler of earthly events.

IN the morning Saraffada summoned her sages to meet in council, and granting Zoravan permission to return to his royal mistress with full assurance of her utmost aid against the tyrant, dismissed the embassy.— Then giving orders to her statesmen vigilantly to prepare for her departure to Malacca, she settled a regency to govern in her absence, and

to Sedamma's holy hands consigned
the sceptre of command.

THE streets of Ketteris soon were filled with soldiers, and the long streamers of the united fleet over-spread the harbour of Samarcand; glittering horrors shone around, and martial fires animated young and old.

MEAN-WHILE the pensive queen, deeply distressed by the visions of the night, began to doubt the oracle's import, and pondering closely on its meaning, sought the solitary gloom, and shades impervious to light.— Here in melancholy contemplation she mused o'er all her fate, recalled each

each past sad scene of grief to her exaggerating view, forgot the good she had received, and deemed herself most wretched.—Thus when passion sways the mind, and neglected reason ceases to act, the happiest situations may be turned to woe, and every sorrow doubled on our heads.

RAJAH Kisna beheld the melancholy of Saraffada with much concern, but fearing to search into the cause, was unable to remove it.—That her indisposition might not however affect the preparations for the war with any unnecessary delay, he assumed to himself all the powers of the crown, and glowing with an ardour not to be suppressed, he was ever

ever present, now in the city, now in the field, and now the fleet; he gave himself no rest, nor would allow it others, save where humanity impelled. The king thus vigilant, the princes and people caught the fire of assiduity, and when the season of embarkation came, all was ready.

THESE tidings being carried to Saraffada in her lone retreats, she at once shook off all melancholy, and resumed her wonted spirits; resolution sat upon her brow, hope dilated her breast, and martial ardour warmed her heart.

THE troops were all embarked, and the royal ships waiting to hoist their

their standards, when the king and queen in separate chariots, and with a noble train of attendants, proceeded from the palace to the port of Samarcand. In one royal barge they left the shore, and Rajah Kisna seeing Saraffada safe on board her vessel, embarked in his.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

has got off with his
fifteen thousand dollars, but with
the old man he has got off with
nothing but the clothes on his back.
He has got off with nothing but
the clothes on his back, and he has got off with
nothing but the clothes on his back.